

This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

3 3433 07136586 4



THE

HISTORY OF BRISTOL.

IN TWO VOLUMES.


THE ASTOR LIBRARY
NY



THE

HISTORY

OF

BRISTOL,

CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL;

INCLUDING

Biographical Notices

OF

EMINENT AND DISTINGUISHED NATIVES.

Urbs antiqua
Dives opum.

Like some renown'd Metropolis
With glittering Spires and Pinnacles adorn'd.

VOLUME II.

BY THE REV. JOHN EVANS,
Author of "The Ponderer."

STOR LIBRARY
NEW-YORK

Bristol:
PRINTED FOR AND PUBLISHED BY W. SHEPPARD, EXCHANGE;
SOLD BY BARRY AND SON; AND NORTON AND SONS.
AND IN LONDON, BY LONGMAN AND CO.; AND LACKINGTON AND CO.
1816.

LPH

364/04

Mary Bryan, Printer, 51, Corn-street.

NEW YORK
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

CONTENTS.

VOL. II.

CHAPTER THE FIRST.

Restoration of Charles II.—New Charter—March of the Duke of Monmouth towards Bristol—Conduct of the Lord Lieutenant—Judge Jefferies visits Bristol—Arbitrary Measures of James II.—Abolition of the Charter of Bristol—Removal of the Corporation, and another appointed by the Court—The Old Corporation restored by Proclamation—Arrival of William III.—Accession of Anne—Another Charter—Sketch of the Charter of Anne—Her visit to Bristol—Improvements in Bristol principally effected by the Corporation—Historic Account of the Corporation of Bristol—Earldom—Biographic Sketch of Lord George Digby, Earl of Bristol—High Steward, Cromwell—Biographical Sketch of the late Duke of Portland—Antiquity of the Office of Mayor—List of Mayors from 1789 to 1810—Recorders, William de Colford, Sir Michael Foster, Hon. Daines Barrington—Town-Clerks, Robert Ricaut, Robert Thorn—Chamberlain, John Willis—Sheriffs—Aldermen—Election of Mayor and Sheriffs—Revenue of the Corporation—Antiquity of the Rights of Bristol as a Borough—History of its Representation—Remuneration to Representatives—Qualifications of Electors—Number of Votes—List of Representatives from 1784 to 1810—Biographic Notice of Burke—General Political Conduct of the Citizens—Council-House—Guildhall—Newgate—Biographic Sketch of Savage—Bill for the Erection of a Prison and Session-House in contiguous Buildings. Page 3

CHAPTER THE SECOND.

Society of the Kalendaries; its Antiquity proved by Worcester and Leland; place in which it was held; Members of which the Society was composed; its Library:

Dissolution—Ricant, one of the Kalendaries—Nunnery of Mary Magdalen; Situation; History and Dissolution—Franciscan Friary—The Carmelites—Biographic Notice of Hooper—St. Bartholomew's Hospital—Convent of Dominican Friars—The Society of the Knights' Templars—Augustine Friary—Fraternity of the Holy Ghost—St. Vincent's Chapel—Hermitage of St. Breudan—Chapels of the Castle—Chapels on the Bridge and on the Back—Martyrs—Notices of Sharp, Hale, and Benion—Persecution of the Quakers—Comparative Numbers of Religious Sects in the Nineteenth Century. Page 61

CHAPTER THE THIRD.

Monastery of St. Augustine—Biographic Sketch of its Founder Fitzharding—Extent of the Monastery, its Charters and Benefactions—College-Green; its Burying-Ground a Sanctuary—Tombs of the Berkeleys—Biographic Notice of Lord Robert Berkeley, Thomas, Maurice, &c.—Number of the Members of the Monastery—Its Abbots—Biographic Notice of Snow—Asch—Newland, and Elliot—Bishopric—Cathedral—Description of its Monuments and Copies of Inscriptions—Bishops—Notices of Bush—Fletcher—Westfield—Howell—Lake—Trelawney—Secker—Butler—Conybeare, and Newton—Deanery—Revenues—Warburton—Charities of the Foundation. Page 103

CHAPTER THE FOURTH.

History of the Church of St. Augustine the Less, its Monuments and Inscriptions—Biographic Notices of Eminent Persons connected with its History—Of St. Mark's or the Mayor's Chapel—Of St. Stephen's—St. Werburgh's—All Saints—Christ Church—Mary Le Port—and St. Nicholas. Page 165

CHAPTER THE FIFTH.

Description of the ancient Form and early State of the City—Historical Sketch of its progressive Alterations—and of its early as well as recent Improvements. Page 201

CHAPTER THE SIXTH.

History of the Church of St. Michael; its Monuments; Biographical Notices of eminent Persons connected with its History—Of St James—St. John—St. Paul—St. Peter—St. Philip—St. Thomas—Temple—and St. Mary Redcliff. Page 233

CHAPTER THE SEVENTH.

Sketch of the Origin and Progress of the Commerce and Manufactures of Bristol—Slave-Trade—Commerce in the Reign of Henry II.—Notice of Harding—Woollen-Manufacture—Notice of Blanket—Trade of Canynge—Notice of Robert Strange—Voyage of Cabot—Trade in 1526—Manufacture of Soap, Pins, and Stockings—of Brass, Copper, and Zinc—Notice of Champion—Present Manufactures—Domestic Commerce—Foreign Commerce—Conclusion. Page 297

CHAPTER THE EIGHTH.

Introduction to the History of Dissenters in Bristol—Inscriptions of Interest in the Dissenting Burying-ground—Brunswick-Square Burying-ground—the Wrights, brief Notice—Hunt—W. P. Lunell, with Notice—Mrs. Perry—In the Baptist Burying-ground. Inscription to Emanuel Gifford—William Foot—Biographical Memoir—Latin Inscriptions to the Evans', with Translations, and Memoir of Dr. Caleb Evans—John Tommas—Joseph Hoskins.—Moravian Burying-ground—J. D. Worgan—Notice of Dissenting-Academy, Stoke's Croft. Page 317

CHAPTER THE NINTH.

Charitable Institutions, Public Buildings, &c.—Schools for the Education of the People—City Grammar School—other Grammar Schools—Colston's School—Schools upon the Plans of Bell and Lancaster—Private Schools—Foote's—Dr. Jones'—Biographical Notice—Exchange—Commercial Rooms—Merchants' Hall—Theatre—Charities—Bristol Library—Philosophical Society—Circulating Libraries—Literature. Page 341

CHAPTER THE TENTH.

Biographical Sketches of Eminent Persons, Natives of Bristol—of Bibert—Ralph of Bristol—Richard Lavingham—John Milverton—John Spine—Robert Ricaut—Sebastian Cabot—William Canynge—William of Worcester—William Grocyne—Dr. Child—Tobias Matthews—Edward Colston—John Lewis—Sir William Draper—Thomas Chatterton—Ann Yearsley—Mrs. Robinson—William Isaac Roberts—John Dawes Worgan, and Mr. Thomas Engles. Page 375

APPENDIX.

Appendix—No. I. Notice of Dr. Hook, and Abridgement of his Dissertation on the Antiquity of Bristol. Page 409

Appendix—No. II. Description of the City in the Reign of Charles II. by M. Jorevin. Page 414

Appendix—No. III. Curious Description of Bristol by an Early Writer. Page 418

Appendix—No. IV. Translation of the Inscription on the Tomb of Archbishop Matthew in York Cathedral. Page 420

Appendix—No. V. Extract from an Old Bristol Newspaper, relative to Sir John Duddlestone. Page 423

Appendix—No. VI. Eagle in St. Mary Le Port Church, with a curious Advertisement. Page 426

Appendix—No. VII. Piece of Plate presented to Mr. Bathurst. Page 430

Appendix—No. VIII. Discovery of Stone Coffins. Page 432

Appendix—No. IX. Curious Exhumation of a Corpse. Page 434

Appendix—No. X. Notice of the Remains of an Ancient Church, and of Canynges' Chapel. Page 441

CONTENTS

OF

CHAPTER THE FIRST.

Restoration of Charles II.—New Charter—March of the Duke of Monmouth towards Bristol—Conduct of the Lord Lieutenant—Judge Jefferies visits Bristol—Arbitrary Measures of James II.—Abolition of the Charter of Bristol—Removal of the Corporation, and another appointed by the Court—The Old Corporation restored by Proclamation—Arrival of William III.—Accession of Anne—Another Charter—Sketch of the Charter of Anne—Her Visit to Bristol—Improvements in Bristol principally effected by the Corporation—Historic Account of the Corporation of Bristol—Earldom—Biographic Sketch of Lord George Digby, Earl of Bristol—High Steward, Cromwell—Biographical Sketch of the late Duke of Portland—Antiquity of the Office of Mayor—List of Mayors from 1789 to 1810—Recorders, William de Colford, Sir Michael Foster, Hon. Daines Barrington—Town-Clerks, Robert Ricaut, Robert Thorn—Chamberlain, John Willis—Sheriffs—Aldermen—Election of Mayor and Sheriffs—Revenue of the Corporation—Antiquity of the Rights of Bristol as a Borough—History of its Representation—Remuneration to Representatives—Qualifications of Electors—Number of Votes—List of Representatives from 1784 to 1810—Biographic Notice of Burke—General Political Conduct of the Citizens—Council-House—Guildhall—Newgate—Biographic Sketch of Savage—Bill for the Erection of a Prison and Session-House in contiguous Buildings.

CHAPTER THE FIRST.

To allay the tumults of civil commotion, and to re-establish the public tranquillity, it was determined to place Charles II. on the throne of his ancestors. From this restoration of the house of Stuart, Bristol derived very considerable advantages. In the year 1664, four years after the king had ascended the throne, he granted a confirmation of the charters of Charles I.* by which the Castle, together with the houses and gardens within the Castle Precincts, were separated from the county of Glocester and were made part of the city and county of Bristol. Nor did royal munificence confine itself to the confirmation of these charters. In the year 1683 a new charter was granted, by

* See Vol. I. page 395.

which it was established that Bristol should be a city incorporate and county within itself, and by which its corporation was regulated and established.*

* The following abridgment of this charter having been found, upon a comparison with the original, sufficiently accurate, it is here introduced from Barrett:—

"Charles II. granted a new charter, by which he confirms it as a city incorporate and county within itself, with the same bounds usually enjoyed, and grants the same powers to the mayor and two sheriffs, that they may have a common seal, and take the oaths of allegiance and the oaths appointed by act of parliament for corporations; that the common council-men may not exceed forty-three, to continue for their natural lives; who are to have power to make laws, but not contrary to the statutes of the realm, and to be in force but one year if the lord chancellor approves not thereof. The mayor and sheriffs to be always chosen the 15th of September, and all the oaths administered the 29th. If the mayor or sheriff die, another to be elected by the common council. A recorder to be chosen, a barrister of five years standing, to be approved under the royal hand. That there be twelve aldermen; the recorder to be the senior. That they be resident in the city, and no one elected for mayor, or sheriff, or alderman, that shall voluntarily absent himself when to be sworn; and a fine not exceeding £500. be imposed on those refusing to serve when chosen, unless they swear they are not worth £2,000. The mayor and aldermen to be justices of the peace, and to punish offenders at the sessions four times a year. That a town-clerk be chosen by them, a barrister of three years; and a steward of the sheriffs' court; also two coroners. The mayor to have the regulation of the markets, and may have three fairs for wool, &c. the 16th of April, the 10th of June, and the first Thursday after Michaelmas, to be kept in King-Street; and five other fairs for horses, the 25th of January in Temple-Street, on the 25th and 26th of March at Redcliff-Hill, on the 25th and 26th May in Broadmead, on the 25th, 26th, and 27th of September in Temple-

In the year 1685 when the faction of the unfortunate Monmouth threatened to subvert the established government, it appears that considerable alarm was excited in Bristol as well as in every city of importance in the west of England. The Duke of Beaufort who was then lord lieutenant of the city was as decisive in his plans as he was active in his preparations; and by his prudence and energy saved the city from the accumulated horrors of a rebel siege.

From the conduct of the lord lieutenant we may conjecture that the partizans of Monmouth were by no means inconsiderable in Bristol, for we find him threatening to set fire to the town in case of an insurrection. Whether the duke had received any secret assurances of support from the citizens, or an insurrection in his favour was only apprehended by the lord lieutenant, it is now impossible to determine, and therefore useless to conjecture. It is certain from the testimony of one of the most eminent of modern historians,* that

Street, and on the 25th, 26th, and 27th of November on Redcliff-Hill; also that they may keep the piedpowder-court there at the said fairs, with the liberties and customs thereof. 1683. Witness myself at Westminster, the 2d of June, the 36th year of our reign.

"PIGOT."

* See "Fox's history of the reign of James II." from which admirable work the account of Monmouth's rout is principally extracted.

when the duke arrived at Shepton Mallet from Glastonbury, the project of an attack upon Bristol was first communicated by him to his officers. After some discussion it was agreed that the attack should be made upon the Gloucestershire side of the city, and with that view it was determined to pass the Avon at Keynsham-bridge, a few miles from Bristol. In their march from Shepton Mallet the troops were harassed in their rear by a party of horse and dragoons; but lodged quietly during the night in the village of Pensford. A detachment was sent early the next morning to possess itself of Keynsham, and to repair the bridge, which might, probably, be broken down to prevent a passage. Upon their approach, a troop of the Gloucestershire militia abandoned the town in great precipitation, leaving behind them two horses and one man. By break of day the bridge, which had not been much injured, was repaired, and before noon Monmouth, having passed it with his whole army, was in full march to Bristol; which he determined to attack the ensuing night. But the weather proving rainy and bad, it was deemed expedient to return to Keynsham, a measure from which he expected to reap a double advantage; to procure dry and commodious quarters for the soldiery; and to lull the enemy, by a movement which bore the semblance of a retreat, into a false and delusive security. The event, however, did

not answer his expectation; for the troops had scarcely taken up their quarters when they were disturbed by two parties of horse who entered the town in two several places. An engagement ensued in which Monmouth lost fourteen men and a captain of horse, though in the end the royalists were obliged to retire, leaving three prisoners. From these the duke had information that the king's army was near at hand, and, as they said, about four thousand strong. This new state of affairs seemed to demand new councils. The projected enterprize upon Bristol was laid aside, and after considerable deliberation it was determined to march directly into Wiltshire: but at length the result of the transactions at King's Sedgmoor arrested his career. After having suffered all the calamities attendant upon defeat, and experienced all the wretchedness of disgrace and of hunger, the punishment of decapitation put a period to his sufferings with his life on the 15th of July 1685, in the thirtieth year of his age.

Soon after the defeat of Monmouth's party at Sedgmoor, the execrable Jefferies was sent to insult a fallen enemy and to take vengeance of its imbecility.* In the execution of this purpose he

* "Jefferies was as submissive and mean to those above him as he was haughty and insolent to those who were in any degree in his power." Fox.

arrived in Bristol and condemned six men for treason, three of whom suffered. Of the innocence or the guilt of these characters little can now be known, but public opinion has uniformly considered them the immolated victims of political revenge.

When the impolitic as well as impotent James II. meditated the subversion of the British constitution, and laboured, with assiduous anxiety, to introduce the despotism of Turkey into the empire of Britain, among the means he employed for the execution of his purpose and in order to complete the triumph of tyranny, was the abolition of the charters of the principal corporate bodies in the kingdom. In this struggle Bristol obtained a place among those cities, which suffered a kind of martyrdom in the cause of liberty. On the 13th of January, 1687, the principal members of the corporation were removed by an order of council, and others were named, in the same deed, to supply the vacancies occasioned by these removals. By the adoption of these measures it was hoped that all the offices of magistracy throughout the empire would be filled by the obsequious creatures of a tyrant's will. But how contemptible is the policy of despotism, and how ineffectual are its exertions when it has to contend with the energies of a decided people! From the apprehensions of their effects the minions of James shrunk into in-

significancy; and wi h the cowardice natural to tyrants, these sapient ministers of a sapient monarch published a proclamation, by which the ancient charters were restored to the several corporations in the kingdom. In this proclamation something was granted, and more was promised. Of the advantages of the proclamation Bristol availed itself, and subsequent events rendered the performance of the promises unnecessary. The old corporation was restored in 1688. An era consecrated in British history by the arrival of the illustrious William III.*

The period which beheld Anne† upon the throne of England is no less interesting and important in the history of Bristol, than conspicuous in the

* After the battle of the Boyne, William III. landed at Morgan's Pill, now Lamplighter's Hall, and proceeded immediately to Badmington. With William III. many families came from Holland and settled in Bristol, to whom the city is greatly indebted for its high character of commercial respectability; among which may be noticed those of Peloquin, La Roche, Casamajor, and Daltera.

† Anne is the last regal visitant with whom Bristol has been honoured. The house in which the illustrious guest was entertained is not mentioned; but the following anecdote relative to her visit has been thought worth preserving. Edward Harford, Esq. grand-father of J. S. Harford, Esq. of Blaize Castle, observed, in conversation with a gentleman to whom the author is indebted for this anecdote, that he saw Queen Anne and the Prince of Denmark get into their carriage, when leaving Bristol, in Redcliff-Street.

history of literature, and splendid in the annals of military achievements. This illustrious princess granted a new charter to Bristol, which bears date the 24th of July, 1710. By this charter she confirmed all former charters and liberties which had been granted to the city by preceding sovereigns, and grants the royal pardon to the mayor and to the other officers of the corporation for having executed their respective offices without the approbation of the chancellor, which by the charter of Charles II. was ordered to be obtained. She, moreover, absolves the body corporate from the necessity of obtaining such approbation of their future elections, and relinquishes in the crown every power of removing the mayor, and the other officers of the corporation, from the respective offices to which they have been elected.

Such is the outline of one of the most important of the Bristol charters;* a charter which placed the corporation of Bristol upon its present truly respectable establishment, and entitles it to rank among the first corporations of the civilized world.

From the reign of Anne to the present period the history of Bristol is so intimately connected with that of the British Empire at large, as to present few

* See Bristol charters; of which a new and complete edition has been promised from a rev. gentleman of great ability and research.

events of any unconnected interest. But in the history of cities as well as empires, it frequently happens that the period which is most deficient in events which the historian can record, is most abundant in the means of happiness, and most important in the progress of intellect. In the lapse of the last century the arts of civilization have been advancing in their silent but rapid progress. The spirit of improvement has been diffused throughout the empire, and of this spirit Bristol has imbibed no inconsiderable a proportion. The effects of it may be traced in every part of the city; and while it has prompted us to the erection of public buildings for the most important purposes, and introduced elegance in the appearance of our streets, it becomes us to demonstrate that it has also introduced liberality of thinking and dignity of sentiment. Its operations, however, have not yet ceased, and we feel confident that they will not, till every thing shall be effected which it is desirable to accomplish.

The most important of the improvements, which have been effected in Bristol during the last cen-

* Mr. Chalmers has remarked that in the first fourteen sessions of the present reign, no fewer than seven hundred acts of parliament were passed for dividing commons, inclosing wastes and draining marshes; four hundred and fifty acts for making roads in different districts; and nineteen acts for making artificial canals; besides others for the improvement and security of harbours.

tury, have generally derived their origin from the public spirit, and well directed exertions of the body corporate. It has already been observed that this respectable body was placed upon its present foundation, and empowered to exercise the full authority with which it is now entrusted, by the charter of Queen Anne. The history of Bristol having been brought down to this period, we propose to devote the remainder of this chapter to an historical sketch of the corporation, embracing such biographic notices of some of its most eminent members as could be procured, with the exception of such names as will constitute distinct articles in the chapter it is proposed to assign to the biography of eminent persons natives of Bristol.

The corporation of Bristol has been differently constituted in different periods of its history. In the times of feudal servitude and of military despotism, the governor of the castle appears to have exercised a jurisdiction, if not unlimited, at least, undefined. When the governor of the castle, during the civil wars, surrendered the castle and city to the generals of the parliamentary armies, no conference was held with the civil magistrates, notwithstanding the castle and precincts were then a part of the estate of the corporation by purchase from Charles I. Whence it would seem that the civil power was *then* absorbed in military autho-

rity. The progress of civilization, however, at length taught the world to seek protection from an authority, and to reverence powers which derive no efficacy from the rights of conquest, or from the force of arms; but which by recommending themselves to the judgment and to reason, derive their best support from being found to be productive of reciprocal advantages.

Bristol gives title to an earl, which is at present enjoyed by the noble family of Hervey. It was created an earldom in 1622, by James I. and conferred upon the ancient family of Digby. Lord John Digby was the first earl of Bristol. His lordship's heir, Lord George Digby, bore a conspicuous part in the transactions of the reign of Charles II. and was equally remarkable for his talents and his inconsistencies. "His life," observes Walpole, "was one contradiction. He wrote against popery, and embraced it; he was a zealous opposer of the court and a sacrifice for it; was conscientiously converted in the midst of his prosecution of Lord Strafford, and was most unconscientiously a prosecutor of Lord Clarendon. With great talents he always hurt himself and his friends; with romantic bravery he was always an unsuccessful commander. He spake for the test act though a roman catholic; and addicted himself to the study of astrology on the birth-day of true philosophy."

Such a conduct may exite pity or contempt, but neither surprize nor admiration. It may be resolved into the uniform operation of a passion for distinction; and to this the earl of Bristol was content to sacrifice the love of glory. In consequence of his indecision of character, he lived, neither feared by his enemies nor beloved by his friends, and died, unregretted by any of the political parties of his age, in 1676.

The civil government of the City of Bristol is vested in the corporation. The mayor is the chief magistrate; but the principal members of the corporation are a high-steward, the mayor, a recorder, aldermen, sheriffs, common-council, town-clerk, chamberlain, and some other officers, with the establishment of which no interesting circumstances are connected, and which are therefore omitted in an historical account of the corporation of Bristol.

The office of high-steward is first mentioned in the annals of Bristol in 1540, when the Duke of Somerset possessed the dignity. Of the duties connected with the office, or the emoluments resulting from its enjoyment, no mention has been made. It appears, indeed, to be merely an honorary office, conferring a title the more flattering to its possessor, as it is freely conferred, and unstained by any sordid remuneration.

Among her high-stewards, Bristol reckons the Protector, Oliver Cromwell; and it deserves observation that a salary of five pounds was annexed to the office; in addition to which a pipe of canary and half a tun of gascoigne wine were ordered to be presented to the protector.

His grace the late Duke of Portland was elected high-steward of Bristol in 1786, and died October the 30th, 1809. The immediate ancestors of the Duke of Portland, like those of the Earls of Albemarle and Rochford, came over to this country at the revolution of 1688. William Henry Cavendish Bentick, the late high-steward of Bristol and the third Duke of Portland, was born April 13th, 1738. His youth was generally regarded as considerable in promise of future eminence; and he excited peculiar notice in 1756 at Christ Church, Oxford, by the recitation of some English verses, which were considered as displaying good abilities united to habits of reflection and investigation. He succeeded his father in the title of Duke of Portland in the twenty-fourth year of his age; but the estate which should have supported the title was found to be considerably encumbered, particularly by a large jointure of about sixteen thousand pounds per annum to the Dutchess Dowager. This circumstance is supposed to have had considerable influence upon his political conduct,

and to have induced him to adopt measures which could procure for him more substantial remunerations than mere parliamentary popularity has to bestow.

On the 8th of November, 1766, his grace was married to Lady Dorothy Cavendish, daughter of William late Duke of Devonshire, by whom he had four sons and two daughters. In 1782, during the Rockingham administration, the Duke of Portland became lord lieutenant of Ireland, and, in the following year, first lord of the treasury. This office he held only a few months, being displaced by the ascendancy of Mr. Pitt, under whom he condescended to serve as one of the secretaries of state in 1794. He resigned this office from declining health in 1801, but acted as president of the council until 1805, when he withdrew in consequence of the formation of the Fox and Grenville administration. On the death of Mr. Fox and the dissolution of that administration, the Duke of Portland became *ostensible* minister under the name of the first lord of the treasury: increasing infirmities at length compelled him to retire from public business, which he did only a few weeks before his death.

The Duke of Portland's political conduct discovers varieties which it is difficult to reconcile

with a uniform perception of rectitude, or an undeviating adherence to principle. He was by turns the rival and the colleague, the friend and the foe of nearly all the administrations of the last fifty years. In all these his influence was derived from rank rather than from talent, since his oratorical powers did not rise above mediocrity, and his measures as a politician were uniformly inefficient.

In private life the Duke of Portland appears to better advantage; and candour, perhaps, will consent to disregard the inefficiency of the prime minister, and the failures of the politician, in the contemplation of the excellencies of the son, the father, the friend, and the citizen. Lord Grenville, chancellor of the university of Oxford, &c. &c. was elected high-steward of Bristol in 1810.

It has been already observed that the authority of the governor of the castle was originally undefined, if not unlimited. The earliest government of Bristol, indeed, appears to have been mixed, military and civil; the supreme authority being vested in the lord constable of the castle, who deputed another officer for the execution of justice, stiled in latin "prepositus villæ," or provost of the town. The earliest account of this officer occurs in doomsday-book, in which the prepositus de Bristou is named Sheruuinus, and described as

holding a manor in Glocestershire in the time of Edward the Confessor.

The period in which the chief magistrate was denominated mayor cannot be ascertained; but the charter which permitted that Bristol should be governed by a magistrate denominated "prepositus villæ," and vested with judicial authority like London, was obtained in the reign of John. This charter was confirmed and several additional privileges granted the body corporate by the charter of Henry III.

Dr. Hooke in his dissertation on the antiquities of Bristol, of which a farther account will be given in the appendix, says, "Bristol appears to have been all along from the earliest accounts a corporation by prescription, under the like government as London, and to have had magistrates, both chief and subordinate, with the same stile and titles, except that of lord mayor, and invested with the same powers and authorities; and that the utmost that London can boast on this head is that it had the honour of being a *mayor town* just eight years before Bristol."*

The prepositor or mayor continued to be sworn

* Dissertation, page 59. See also Vol. I. pages 11 & 18.

before the governor of the castle, or the lord constable his deputy, till the reign of Edward III. when, by a charter granted in 1373, after the election of the mayor, it was granted that he might have the oaths administered to him in the Guildhall, in the presence of his predecessor in office, the body corporate, and the burgesses. The different forms of civil government which have obtained in different periods, and the titles of the officers, will best appear from the following list.

1. Till A. D. 1205. A prepositor under the custos of the castle.
2.——— 1266. A mayor and two prepositors.
3.——— 1313. A mayor and two seneschals or stewards.
4.——— 1372. A mayor and two bailiffs.
5.——— 1372. A mayor, sheriff, and two bailiffs.
6. To the present period, A mayor and two sheriffs chosen annually.

From the year 1216, the names of the gentlemen who have filled these offices, have been preserved, and will be given in the appendix, for the convenience of reference, as well as for the gratification of curiosity. In the list will be found some illustrious names, which will be considered more at large in the chapter it is proposed to assign to the biography

of eminent persons, natives of Bristol. The following names complete the list from 1789 to the present period.

	Mayors.	Sheriffs.
1789	James Hill	Henry Bengough
		John Gordon, Jun.
1790	John Harris	James Morgan
		Rowland Williams
1791	John Noble	Joseph Harford
		Samuel Span
1792	Henry Bengough	William Gibbons
		Joseph Gregory Harris
1793	James Morgan	Charles Young
		John Page
1794	Joseph Smith	Robert Castle
		Joseph Edye
1795	James Harvey	David Evans
		John Wilcox
1796	James Harvey	John Foy Edgar
		Azariah Pinney
1797	Thomas Daniel, Jun.	Edward Protheroe,
		John Span
1798	Robert Claxton	Daniel Wait, Jun.
		William Fripp
1799	John Morgan	Henry Bright
		Worthington Brice
1800	William Gibbons	Robert Castle
		Samuel Birch

	Mayors.	Sheriffs.
1801	Joseph Edye	Samuel Span
		Richard Vaughan, Jun.
1802	Robert Castle*	John Foy Edgar
		Henry Protheroe
1803	David Evans	Samuel Henderson
		John Haythorne
1804	Edward Protheroe	Levi Ames, Jun.
		Philip Protheroe
1805	Daniel Wait	William Inman
		John Hilhouse Wilcox
1806	Richard Vaughan	Henry Brooke
		Edward Brice
1807	Henry Bright	Henry Protheroe
		John Haythorne
1808	John Haythorne	Benjamin Bickley
		Philip George
1809	John Hilhouse Wilcox	Michael Castle
		George King
1810	Philip Protheroe	William Inman
		James Fowler

* This gentleman died before the year of his mayoralty was completed; and his integrity as a magistrate, joined to a peculiar amenity of manners, had procured him so generally the esteem and respect of his fellow-citizens, that his loss was both extensively felt and unfeignedly lamented. He will ever live in the recollection of the author from those grateful associations formed in the days of boyhood, which have induced him to embrace with peculiar pleasure the opportunity of offering this trifling tribute to his memory.

The name of recorder first occurs in the reign of the British Alexander Edward III. about the year 1344. By an act passed during the reign of Elizabeth in 1581, it is enacted that the recorder must have been a barrister of at least five years standing at the time of his election. He is consequently supposed to possess consummate knowledge of jurisprudence, and ranks among the corporation as senior alderman. First on the list of recorders is the name of William de Colford, entitled to historic notice from having written an account of the customs of the city, and for having preserved the forms of the oaths administered to the members and officers of the corporation.

Sir Michael Foster was recorder of Bristol in 1735. This truly eminent lawyer was born at Marlborough in Wiltshire, in 1689, and after passing through the preliminary parts of education with distinction, studied at Exeter College, Oxford. He prosecuted his professional studies in the Middle Temple, but not finding the success he expected at the bar, settled first at Marlborough, and then, having married, removed to Bristol, and practised in his profession with distinguished reputation. In 1736 he obtained the degree of serjeant of law; and in 1745, upon the recommendation of Lord Chancellor Hardwicke, was appointed one of

the judges of the court of king's bench, with the honour of knighthood. In 1762 he published "A report of some proceedings on the commission for the trial of the rebels in 1746, in the county of Surry; and of other crown cases, to which are added discourses upon a few branches of the crown law." This work will procure for its author an immortality of reputation as a lawyer, and obtained for him from Blackstone the encomium of "a very great master of the crown law." It has been twice reprinted with valuable additions, by Mr. Michael Dodson, the learned translator of Isaiah. Judge Foster sat on the bench eighteen years, with the highest reputation for legal knowledge and integrity, and died in 1763. Sir Michael Foster continued recorder till his death, and was succeeded by the Hon. Daines Barrington, whose writings as a lawyer, naturalist, and antiquarian exhibit great talents, united to indefatigable application and profound research. His "Observations on the Statutes" have passed through five editions, and are a fund of interesting materials to the historian and antiquarian. His other writings may be found in the transactions of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies, of both which he was an assiduous member, and of the latter vice-president. He resigned the recordership of Bristol in 1766, and the office of second justice of Chester in 1785; and from that

time to his death, in 1800, lived in retirement in the Inner Temple. The predecessor of the present recorder, Sir Vicary Gibbs, his majesty's attorney-general, was Richard Burke, Esq. brother to Burke member for Bristol, deservedly characterized as the English Demosthenes.*

The office of town-clerk is of considerable antiquity. The town-clerk presides as judge in the court of quarter-sessions; and by the statute must have been, prior to his election, a barrister for at least three years. In order that he might be always in readiness to assist the mayor and alder-

* It is hoped that the introduction of the following lines from one of the sweetest sons of modern song, will be excused from a consideration of the subject to which they refer.

Here lies honest Richard, whose fate I must sigh at;
Alas that such frolic should now be so quiet!
What spirits were his! what wit and what whim!
Now breaking a jest, and now breaking a limb.
Now wrangling and grumbling to keep up the ball;
Now teazing and vexing, yet laughing at all!
In short so provoking a devil was Dick,
That we wish'd him full ten times a day at old nick.
But missing his mirth and agreeable vein,
As often we wish'd to have Dick back again.

Such a character of R. Burke, Esq. from such a pen, affords a striking example that the graver studies of the law are not incompatible with the more lively sallies of humour, or the captivating coruscations of wit.

men with his advice, and record the orders of council, he is enjoined to reside in the city. Robert Ricaut memorable as author of the mayor's calendar now extant in manuscript, filled his office about the year 1479.

To omit the name of Robert Thorn would be injustice to his memory. As a merchant he appears to have been enterprising and successful; as a citizen ardent and indefatigable in his exertions to promote the interests of his fellow-citizens, and as a man active and benevolent in lessening the sum of human infelicity; he died in 1540, after he had filled the office of town-clerk twenty-six years. Samuel Worrall, Esq. the father of the present town-clerk, was elected in 1787, and filled this office with considerable ability.

In consequence of the vast increase of the property vested in the corporation, the business of the chamberlain is of very great importance as well as of considerable extent. The chamberlain after his election signs a declaration acknowledging that his powers are delegated, and that he has no pretensions to a freehold in the concerns which he transacts. He signs a bond of £3,000. for the execution of his office with care and fidelity, and is obliged by the statute to render an account of the revenues of the corporation, together with their

application, in one month after the feast of St. Luke.

Among the chamberlains we find the name of John Willis, of whom tradition says, that he was the best chamberlain ever known, and that he expended his fortune in the execution of schemes of public utility. To dissipate the fortune which should provide for the demands of a family, or an individual, though the profusion shelter itself under the name of benevolence, can never escape censure; but such conduct in the man whose office requires circumspection and demands economy, partakes in some degree of criminality. Willis died in 1782. The present chamberlain, Richard Hawkeswell, Esq. has filled the office since the year 1773 with distinguished reputation.

The authority now exercised by the sheriffs was originally vested in officers who sustained the name of bailiffs. The charter of Charles II. appoints the election of sheriffs, and we find that Nathaniel Driver and Edmund Arundel, Esqrs. were appointed the first sheriffs by this charter.

Prior to the reign of Elizabeth the number of the aldermen was limited to six, who presided over as many divisions of the city, to which the name of wards was given. In the twenty-third year of her

reign the city was divided into twelve wards, and empowered to choose twelve aldermen. They are constituted preservers of the public tranquillity with all the powers of justices of the peace, and enjoy all the privileges and authority of aldermen of London. Any three of the aldermen, together with the mayor for the time being, and recorder, may hold a court of oyer and terminer, or general gaol delivery; upon which occasion they have authority to inflict the severest punishment the law appoints to preserve the property and protect the persons of the subjects of the British empire.

The election of the mayor and sheriffs by the charter of Charles II. takes place annually on the 15th of September. If the gentlemen elected to either of these offices refuse to serve the office for which they are chosen they are liable to a fine, the mayor elect of £500. and the sheriffs elect in £200. each, which, however, is now seldom levied, as courtesy generally avoids the choice which is known to be decidedly disagreeable.

By the charter of Charles II. the common-council might consist of forty-three members, but in the charter granted by Queen Anne the number is restricted to forty-two. From the members of the common-council are elected the sheriffs; and it frequently happens that gentlemen are chosen

members of the common-council as a preliminary to their election for the office of sheriffs. If there be no vacancy in this branch of the body corporate, it follows that the same gentlemen are called upon to fill the office a second time.

In point of opulence the corporation of Bristol is supposed to rank among the most wealthy bodies corporate of the kingdom. So far back as the year 1778 the annual income of the corporation is stated by Mr. Barrett* to have amounted to £14,000. arising from the several estates they possess, and from those for which they act in trust, with the rents of the several markets, the profits arising from the town duties, and other sources of revenue. Since that period every species of property has advanced in an unprecedented proportion, and landed property in particular has generally doubled the value at which it was estimated in 1778. If, therefore, we assume £14,000. per annum, as the income of the corporation of Bristol in 1778, to suppose that this income from that period to the present has increased one-third, may be admitted as a computation rather falling short of the truth than liable to a charge of exaggeration. This computation gives upwards of eighteen thousand pounds as the annual revenue of this opulent

* See Barrett's History, page 140.

body.* This statement of the revenue of the corporation may appear, at first view, too highly estimated; but the following account of the income of the corporation of Liverpool, as delivered by their order to the House of Commons, will afford some degree of corroboration to the statement.

Income of the corporation of Liverpool for 1792.

Fines received for renewal of leases	£2,270	14	4
Ground-rents received for 1792	1,027	1	10
Rents for buildings in possession, let to tenants at will	5,166	17	6
Rents for land in possession, let to ditto	1,349	1	0
Amount of town-duties	12,180	7	0
Graving docks	1,701	16	5
Anchorage	211	15	3
Small tolls called ingates and outgates	321	9	7
Carried forward	£24,229	2	11

* The author is aware that this is a subject of delicacy as well as difficulty, but at the same time of considerable interest. He has, therefore, proceeded with every possible precaution against inaccuracies; but if unhappily he has fallen into any mistake, he pledges himself to publish in the appendix any well authenticated communication upon the subject which may be addressed to the publisher in sufficient time for publication.

Brought forward	£24,229	2	11
Weighing machine	143	4	0
Rents of seats in St. George's church	268	11	0
Arrears of interest from the parish of Liverpool	360	0	0
	£25,000	17	11
Interest and Annuities paid in 1792:—			
Annual interest upon the bond debts, principally at 4½ perCent. per Annum	15,835	14	3
Annuities upon bond	2,109	12	10
	17,945	7	1
Balance in favor of the corporation	£7,055	10	10*

From this account it appears that if we assign £18,000. as the general annual revenue of the corporation of Bristol, the general revenue of the corporation of Liverpool *exceeds* it by seven thousand pounds per annum. It is necessary to observe that this computation rests solely on the authority here stated, and that no other information could be obtained upon the subject; from which it consequently follows that this computation can be

* Dr. Aikin's History of Manchester.

depended upon no farther than the principles upon which it proceeds may be approved.

The principal source of the revenue of the corporation is their estates in land or houses. A considerable portion of their landed property is derived from the charter of John, and claimed by them under the title of lords of the waste. This waste includes what is now Queen-square, Princes-street, King-street, part of St. Augustin's-back, the Key, Grove, and the Back, the ground-rents of which constitute part of the revenue of the corporation. The other sources of revenue have already been stated to be the profits derived from the town duties or dues, the rents of the several markets, and in general it may be presumed, that the income may be ranged, with few exceptions, under the same heads or sources as those assumed in the statement of the income of the corporation of Liverpool.

In consequence of the increased value of landed property, and the expectation that its value will continue to increase, we have been informed that the corporation have determined not to renew such leases as may hereafter expire. The following communication is from a gentleman of extensive knowledge, to whom the author is indebted for several similar favours, and whose name would be the best

ornament of his work if he were at liberty to introduce it. "The increase," says he, "of the annual revenue of the corporation has hitherto been small, but will in a little time be very considerable. Their lands, till late years, were granted on lives, the emolument from which was chiefly in fines paid on renewals, the rents being seldom advanced. Having now determined not to renew, the lands must, in the course of a little time come into their own possession, when the rents will be increased in proportion to the rise of general property."

In the statement given of the income of the body corporate, the estates for which they act in trust are included; the rents of which are to be appropriated to charitable purposes. These are stated by Mr. Barrett to have amounted in 1778 to three thousand pounds. If we suppose as before that this income has increased to the present period one third, this portion of the income is now four thousand pounds per annum, which is applied to the purposes of benevolence, with the most sacred regard to the intention of the respective donors. Of the remainder, two thousand five hundred pounds per annum are assigned to the mayor and sheriffs (to the mayor one thousand five hundred, and to each of the sheriffs five hundred pounds) in order to lessen that demand upon personal property which is necessarily incurred in supporting the respect due

to magistracy. In addition to these demands on the income of the corporation, it is probable that between three and four thousand pounds per annum are necessary for the salaries of officers,* and other expences incurred in the support of the civil government of the city.

The resolution to which we have referred, will in a few years increase the revenue of the corporation to a sum of which the corporate body of 1778 could form a very imperfect conception. From the recent improvements effected in several of the old parts of the city, we have the most satisfactory proofs that there exists in the corporation a disposition to employ the superfluous part of their revenue in the execution of schemes which have for their object the beauty and improvement of the city. When the economical plans in the management of their landed property, we have before noticed, shall have furnished this disposition with the most ample means of gratification, in devising and executing plans of

* It is a subject of regret that while city carpenters and city masons are attached to the corporation, that respectable body has never appointed a city draughtsman, whose office it might be to preserve sketches of old buildings, narrow ways, and streets, previous to their removal. Few of the present citizens are sufficiently aware of the advantages they enjoy from an ignorance of the privations under which their ancestors laboured. Would not such an establishment be a valuable addition to the officers of the library? In which such sketches might be conveniently referred to and easily preserved.

public utility, we anticipate the most important effects to the community; since we feel confident, that the opulent and truly respectable corporation of this ancient city will be inferior to none in the kingdom in active patriotism and public spirit.

Bristol appears to have sent representatives to the great national council at a very early period. It is frequently denominated a borough by ancient prescription, and appears to have been so called as early as the reign of William the Conqueror, when London had obtained no other denomination. With the title it seems to have enjoyed all the advantages and exercised all the privileges of a borough, at as early a period as any in the empire.

"It appears," says Dr. Hooke, "that Bristol was separated from all foreign jurisdiction and erected into a *county* of itself, some years before the city of York, so much celebrated for its antiquity; that it has all along enjoyed as ample franchises and privileges as any borough town or city in England, and that it is at present vested with more extensive authorities and jurisdictions than either London or York, or any other city in the kingdom."*

* Dissertation page 57.

In a charter of Henry II. the citizens are stiled burgesses, nor is there any reason for supposing that the title was first applied to them in this charter. Robert Ricaut, in a manuscript calendar preserved among the records of the city, and compiled in the reign of Edward IV. describes the franchise of Bristol as held of the crown in "frank burgage," and adds, that it has enjoyed "its franchises, lybertyes and auntiaunite free customs, time out of mind, as the city of London; and consequently had its said liberties confirmed by magna charta as London and other enfraunchised places had."

The customs and usages, or rights and privileges of Bristol, having been uniformly considered and always declared, in the several charters granted by the different monarchs, to be the same as those of London, it became a subject of importance to ascertain their extent. In order to furnish the body corporate with this information Ricaut took a copy of the customs of London, as contained in a manuscript belonging to Henry Dravey, who was recorder of London in the reign of Edward III. This valuable manuscript is preserved with "the Kalendar," and is at present in the possession of the corporation.

Bristol being originally part of the county of

Glocester, its representation was included in that of the county. The writ for the election of the representatives of Bristol was issued by the sheriffs of Glocester, addressed to the mayor and commonalty. After the election it was returned to the county sheriffs, endorsed with the names of the representatives chosen to serve in parliament for the borough of Bristol. Walter Derby and John Stoke were the last representatives for Bristol, who were returned by the sheriffs of Glocester in the reign of Edward III. in 1372. From this period the writs for the election of representatives have been directed to the sheriffs of Bristol, and returned by them immediately after the election.

In the early periods of the history of parliament, attendance in the legislative assembly was considered a labour rather than an honour, and in consequence a pecuniary remuneration was appointed for such attendance. This remuneration was fixed by parliament to four shillings a day for every knight, and two shillings a day for burgesses or citizens ; which was continued, not only during the sitting of parliament, but for a greater or less number of days, in proportion to the distance between the place in which the parliament was holden and the members' residence.*

* Blackstone's Commentaries with Christian's Notes, Vol. I. fifteenth edition.

The sum fixed by parliament for the remuneration of representatives was so considerable in these ancient periods, that some places petitioned to be excused from sending members, as they were incapable of bearing so extraordinary a charge.* This expence was sometimes diminished by an express agreement between the respective parties; of which a curious instance is quoted by Christian in his notes on Blackstone,* as entered into between John Strange, member for Dunwich, and his electors, in 1463; in which the member covenants that "whether the parliament hold long time or short, or whether it fortune to be prorogued, he will take for his wages only a cade and half a barrel of herrings, to be delivered by Christmas:" and in the annals of Bristol occurs a similar instance of proceeding by summary. In 1520, in the reign of Henry VIII. it was ordered by an act of common council, that twenty shillings† should be paid to the burgesses for their attendance in parliament during the session."

* Blackstone's Commentaries with Christian's Notes, Vol. I. fifteenth edition.

† From the conquest to the twentieth year of Edward III. a pound sterling was actually a pound weight of silver divided into twenty shillings. In 1347, Edward III. coined twenty-two shillings; and five years afterwards he coined twenty-five shillings out of the same quantity. Henry V. in the beginning of his reign divided the pound into thirty shillings. Henry VIII. increased the number to

The qualifications of representatives being fixed by parliament, are in consequence the same in every part of the kingdom. The qualifications of the electors being usually determined by the ancient usage of the respective boroughs, are not only different in different places, but have been different at the same place in different periods.

The period has not yet arrived, when the wisdom of parliament should give the sanction of law to the incontrovertible maxim, that taxation and representation should invariably and inseparably be united, and that every individual who contributes either from a patrimonial fortune or the produce of his industry to support the exigencies of the state, should have a voice in parliament by means of his representative.

In Bristol it is probable that the right of choosing representatives was anciently exercised by the

forty; and Elizabeth, in the beginning of her reign, coined a pound sterling into sixty-two shillings, the present standard. The rule for finding the equivalent of ancient in modern money is, As the number of shillings in a pound at that time is to sixty-two, so is any sum at that time to its equivalent at present: for instance, As thirty shillings of Henry V. is to sixty-two shillings modern money, so is ten pounds to twenty pounds four shillings of modern money, independently of its intrinsic depreciation in consequence of its increased quantity, or the currency which modern ingenuity has substituted for gold and silver.

corporation and freeholders of forty shillings per annum. This restriction of the rights of election to the corporation and the freeholders was attempted to be rendered perpetual by an act of the common-council, passed in the reign of Charles I. in 1625, during the mayoralty of John Barker, Esq.* This law enacts "That whensoever any writ for election of knights, citizens, or burgesses for the parliament shall come to the sheriffs of this city, the election shall be made by the mayor, aldermen, and common-council for the time being, and by the freeholders resident within the said city, and by *none else.*" In the reign of Charles II. a similar restriction of the rights of election was inserted in the petition of the corporation to that monarch for the renewal of their charter, namely, "that the parliament men might be chosen by the mayor and corporation and freeholders of forty shillings per annum *only.*" When the petition was submitted to counsel this clause was pronounced unconstitutional, and in consequence erased from the petition.

The right of voting for representatives is at present vested in the freeholders and burgesses or

* In this year also an act of common council adjudged Brandon-Hill to be the property of the mayor and sheriffs, but that the citizens might claim a right of drying clothes there.

freemen. The freedom may be obtained by hereditary right, by serving an apprenticeship of seven years if the indenture be registered at the council-house, by marrying a freeman's daughter, and by purchase. No freeman is disqualified from voting except he receive parochial assistance, or relief from an alms-house, or be employed in the customs or excise.

The number of votes is supposed to amount at present to between seven and eight thousand; but the numbers which have actually voted in the several contests by which Bristol has been distinguished, have never exceeded six thousand. In the contest between Edward Southwell, Esq. principal secretary of state for Ireland, and Mr. Combe,* merchant of Bristol, in 1739, the numbers were, for Mr. Southwell, 2651; for Mr. Combe, 2203; which with 200 neutral votes, give 5054 for the number of votes at that period. In the celebrated

* Of Mr. Combe the following anecdote has been related by such respectable authority, that the author has deemed it worth preserving. Hume, the historian, was once employed by him in the humble situation of a clerk, and in copying Mr. Combe's letters the historian was observed frequently to deviate from his original to render the orthography and grammar in some degree correct. This was deemed such a reflection upon the man whose talents had enabled him "to amass wealth enough to buy half a nation," that Mr. Hume was dismissed from his situation with a prophecy that notwithstanding his industry and good morals his *refined* education would certainly prove his ruin.

contest, between Henry Cruger, Esq. and George Daubeny, Esq. in 1781, the numbers of those who polled were between five and six thousand.*

The names of the representatives of Bristol have been preserved from the twenty-third year of the reign of Edward II. in 1295; and as they have already been published by Mr. Barrett, they will be given in the appendix to render this work as complete as possible as a book of reference. The following names complete the list to the present time.

June 19, 1790, The Marquis of Worcester
John Lord Sheffield.

May 28, 1796, John Lord Sheffield
Charles Bragge, Esq.

Nov. 23, 1801, Charles Bragge, Esq. re-elected without opposition, on his appointment to the Office of Treasurer of the Navy.

July 6, 1802, The Right Honourable Charles Bragge, Esq.
Evan Baillie, Esq.

* The exact numbers in this celebrated election were, for George Daubeny, Esq. 3143; for Henry Cruger, 2771; giving a total of 5914, at the close of the poll, Wednesday, January 31, 1781.

Aug. 16, 1803, The Right Honourable Charles Bragge, Esq. re-elected without opposition on being appointed Secretary at War.

Oct. 29, 1806, The Right Honourable Charles Bathurst (late Bragge)
Evan Baillie, Esq.

May 5, 1807, The Right Honourable Charles Bathurst
Evan Baillie, Esq.

In the list of representatives will be found several names, such as Blanket, Canyngs, Young, Thorn, Snygg, Colston, and Coster, to whose talents and exertions the city is considerably indebted for its relative importance and commercial prosperity. Of these biographic notices will be given in another part of this work; it must suffice here to give a brief sketch of one of the greatest men of modern times.

Among the representatives, by far the most eminent name is that of Burke, member for Bristol in 1774. This illustrious character was a native of Dublin, and born in 1730. His early education was conducted by Abraham Shackleton, an eminent quaker, for whom Mr. Burke entertained through life so great an affection, that he uniformly

paid him an annual visit of gratitude and respect during a period of forty years. He studied at Trinity-College, Dublin, and afterwards offered himself a candidate for the professorship of logic at Glasgow; but having been too late in his application, he came to London in 1749, and entered himself a member of the Temple with a view of being called to the bar.

At this period the narrowness of his finances reduced him to the necessity of writing for the periodical prints; but his talents procured him an introduction to the celebrated Mrs. Woffington, in whose society he passed many of his leisure hours with pleasure and advantage. In 1761, he accompanied W. G. Hamilton, usually designated by the epithet of *single speech*, to Ireland, and at his return obtained a pension of £300. per annum. About this time Mrs. Woffington recommended him to the duke of Newcastle, and his writings introduced him to the notice of the Marquis of Rockingham. This laid the foundation of his future fame and fortune; he first became private secretary to the marquis, and then member for Wendover.

With Dr. Johnson and all the most eminent literary characters of his age, Mr. Burke lived in intimacy, and from all obtained the respect to which his talents entitled him. When Dr. Johnson

took leave of him at Beaconsfield, to which place he had accompanied him from London, he wished him all the success on his canvass at Bristol which "could possibly be wished him by an honest man."

In this celebrated election Cruger was so completely overwhelmed by the eloquence of Burke, that the only speech he made on the hustings was "I say ditto to Mr. Burke! I say ditto to Mr. Burke!"

In 1790 he published his celebrated "Reflections," which were first answered by Dr. Priestley in vindication of his friend Dr. Price, and afterwards by Thomas Paine in his "Rights of Man."

Mr. Burke retired from parliament after the close of Mr. Hastings' trial, and in 1794 sustained an irretrievable loss in the death of his son. He survived this event only three years, and died without bodily struggle or discomposure of mind on the 8th of July, 1797.

As a speaker, Mr. Burke was characterised by a superfluity of ideas and images, often too abundant to be applied with propriety, or selected and arranged with judgment. Early in life he was remarkably careful of his language, and revised his

speeches with attention. Latterly he became blameably diffuse and extravagant, though his ingenuity never failed.

His " Essay on the Sublime and Beautiful" has placed him in the highest class of writers on subjects of taste and criticism; nor can his whole character be summed up with so much strength, conciseness, and truth, as in the memorable words of Johnson. " Burke is one, with whom if you were to take shelter from a shower under a gateway, you would say you had been in company with the most extraordinary man you had ever seen."

Previously to the demolition of Bristol castle in 1665, the inhabitants appear to have been distinguished rather by an opposition to the measures of the court and reigning princes, than by unreserved submission to the monarchs, or approbation of the measures of government. In 1648, William Cann, the mayor of Bristol, proclaimed that " there was no king in England, and that the successors of Charles I. were traitors to the state." It is remarkable that this mayor was the first in England who issued this unconstitutional proclamation,*

* The English constitution contemplates the king in his political capacity as immortal as well as immaculate. See Blackstone, and the valuable work of De Lolme on the English constitution.

which the lord mayor of London had positively refused. Upon the restoration, Bristol seems to have obtained distinction by its demonstrations of joy for the event; and in the subsequent reigns its attachment to the monarch could scarcely be shaken even by the attempts of James II. to bury the British constitution in the gloomy abyss of despotism.

From the accession of the house of Hanover its attachment to the monarchs has been invariable and unshaken. In the rebellion in the reign of George I. Bristol was distinguished by its exertions in the cause of loyalty; but in the alarming rebellion of 1745, its exertions and its patriotism were displayed with all the ardour of enthusiasm. The citizens subscribed the sum of thirty-six thousand four hundred and fifty pounds for the immediate use of government, and raised a small body of troops which were sent to London and incorporated with the king's guards.

From that time to the present, during a period which has scarcely a parallel in the annals of history, the same principles of patriotism have been the characteristic of the citizens. If they have relaxed their ardour, their attachment to his majesty's government remains undiminished, while their veneration for the constitution has been increased

in common with that of every Englishman's, by the striking events of the present age; events as incalculable in their effects as unprecedented in their causes; but which in their operation have subverted all the political relations of Europe, and fixed a new era in the history of the world.

The council-house in which the mayor, aldermen, and common-council meet to transact the business of the corporation, is a plain stone building erected in 1704. The old council-house was erected in 1552, by removing the chapel of the fraternity of Saint John, being a part of the ancient church of Saint Ewin. In the front of the old council-house was a portico, supported by five pillars; in which it appears the corporation usually assembled, except upon particular occasions, when they retired to the council-chamber within the portico. The portico before the council-house was probably designed to correspond with the Tolzey upon the opposite side. From the account of William of Worcester,* the Tolzey itself appears

* William of Worcester is sometimes quoted under the name of Botoner, both of which names he has used himself, but that of Worcester most frequently. His book is published under the title of "Itineraria Symonis Simeonis et Willelmi de Worcestre. Quibus accedit Tractatus de Metro in quo traduntur regulæ a scriptoribus medii ævi in versibus Leoninis observatæ." Edited by James Nasmith. A. M. F. A. S. The itinerary of Worcester is a mere note book, probably designed as materials for a better work, in which

to have been used as a place of meeting for the corporation; and it would also seem that the principal merchants were accustomed to assist the body corporate in their deliberations.*

Upon the old bridge was a chapel, under which was an arched room of the same extent as the building, which was used as a council-chamber. This chamber was constructed in 1360, and was probably the usual place of assembly for the corporation previously to the erection of the former council-house.

The guildhall is a very ancient structure, since it was probably erected so early as the reign of Edward I. Its style is that of the middle or rather perhaps of the ancient gothic. Worcester thus describes it in the year 1480. "The breadth of the guildhall in Broad-street, with the chapel of Saint

he has recorded whatever appeared to him worthy of observation in the places he visited, without preserving any method or arrangement. Bristol was his native city, and he has given the most interesting information respecting it, mixed with much of little or no value. He has given the dimensions of every public building, and usually of all the streets in the city, occasionally interspersed with a few biographical or historical notices. He measures by steps, one of which is in general nearly equal to a half-yard, as appears from page 263, where he makes thirty-two steps equal to eighteen yards.

* Itin. de Wor. p. 170.

George, founded by Richard Spicer, a celebrated merchant and citizen of Bristol, who flourished about the time of Edward III. or Richard II. To the chapel of Saint George is attached an honorable fraternity of the merchants and mariners of Bristol."*

In the front of the guildhall are the arms of Edward I. and in a recess above them is a statue of Charles II. This statue was formerly placed before the old council-house, and removed to its present situation in the commencement of the last century.

The city prison is denominated newgate, and near it was a gate of the same name, which anciently constituted one of the principal entrances to the city. Here, as in other prisons, the cheerless children of insolvency, whose only crime perhaps is poverty, are immured together with the victims of confirmed depravity. It is granted that between these there is no necessary communication, yet surely to dwell under the same roof with the mur-

* Capella ampla in honore Sancti Georgii fundata per Ricardum Spicer, famosum mercatorem et burgensem dictæ villæ, circa tempus regis Edwardi III. seu Ricardi II. et est fraternitas dignissima mercatorum et marinariorum Bristolliæ dictæ capellæ pertinencia. Itin. de Wor. p. 263.

derer or midnight robber must aggravate the evils of misfortune, and increase the woes of poverty.

Considering that this prison is situated in the centre of a populous city, it is more healthy than speculation would conjecture. It was built by a tax upon the inhabitants in 1691. On an ornamented tablet in the front is the following inscription.

EDIFICATUM
SUMPTIBUS CIVIUM ET INCOLARUM
HUJUS CIVITATIS
ANNO DOMINI MDCXCI.
JOHANNE KNIGHT, EQUITE, PRETORE,
ROBERTO DOWDEN, } VICE COMITIBUS.
JOHANNE YEAMANS, }

Of which the following is a translation:

THIS STRUCTURE WAS ERECTED
AT THE EXPENCE
OF THE BURGESSES AND INHABITANTS
OF THIS CITY,
A. D. 1691,
SIR JOHN KNIGHT, MAYOR,
ROBERT DOWDEN, } SHERIFFS.
JOHN YEAMANS, }

Within the walls of this prison died Richard

Savage, a man equally distinguished by his virtues and vices, and at once remarkable for his weaknesses and abilities, yet with whose name is associated a claim to compassion not always bestowed upon the wretched, but which a feeling of peculiar infelicity in the case of the sufferer prompts us to bestow with readiness upon the unfortunate Savage.

Savage, the illegitimate son of an unnatural mother, was born of the Countess of Macclesfield, and was universally allowed to have a just claim upon the Earl of Rivers for the title of father. He was born on the 10th of January, 1697-8. Early abandoned by his mother he grew up in the hovel of poverty; and here having been made familiar with all the evils of indigence, and having laid the foundation of the habits which determined his future character, he was at last apprenticed to a shoe-maker, as the supposed son of his nurse whose name he always bore.

For the education he received he was indebted to the benevolence of the lady Mason, his maternal grandmother; by whose care he had been placed for a short time at a small grammar-school near St. Albans. In this school he imbibed the principles of literature by industry and application; and the powers of genius taught him to expand the prin-

ciples he received when the means of acquisition were withdrawn.

To follow Savage through all the events of his life is to follow the traces of calamity, and to attend to the progress of misfortune. Misery marked this son of wretchedness for her own, and, with the exception of one transient gleam of better fortune, biography may narrate his *life* in the following language.

"He lodged as much by *accident* as he dined, and passed the night sometimes in mean houses, which are set open by night to any casual wanderers; sometimes in cellars among the riot and filth of the meanest and most profligate of the rabble; sometimes when he had not money to support even the expences of these receptacles, walked about the streets till he was weary, and lay down in the summer upon a bulk, or in the winter with his associates in poverty among the ashes of a glass-house. In this manner were passed those nights and those days which nature had enabled him to employ in elevated speculations, useful studies, or pleasing conversation. On a bulk, in a cellar, or in a glass-house among thieves and beggars, was to be found the author of "The Wanderer," the man of exalted sentiments, extensive views, and curious observations; the man whose remarks on life might have assisted the

statesman, whose ideas of virtue might have enlightened the moralist, whose eloquence might have influenced senates, and whose delicacy might have polished courts."

In the summer of 1739 Savage arrived in Bristol on his way to Swansea, to which place it had been proposed that he should retreat, and live upon an annuity which the generosity of his friends had raised. Enabled by means of his annuity to support a respectability of appearance, his talents rendered him a favorite with many of the principal inhabitants: he was invited to their houses, distinguished at their public feasts, and treated with a regard that gratified his vanity and therefore easily engaged his affection.

Disappointed in the expectation of finding felicity among sylvan shades and rural retreats, Savage determined to leave Wales and return to London. In the execution of this determination he once more came to Bristol, where a repetition of the kindness he had formerly found invited him to stay. He was not only caressed and treated, but had a collection made for him of about thirty pounds, with which it had been happy if he had immediately departed for London; but his negligence did not suffer him to consider "that such proofs of kindness were not to be often expected, and that this ardour of bene-

volence was in a great degree the effect of novelty, and might, probably, be every day less; and therefore he took no care to improve the happy time, but was encouraged by one favour to hope for another, till at length generosity was exhausted and officiousness wearied."

But while he was thus inattentive to the suggestions of prudence, distress stole upon him by imperceptible degrees. The decay of his clothes banished him from the tables of the fashionable; and his inattention to regularity in his hours prevented him from becoming the companion of those whose habits of commercial application gave them no relish for midnight conversations. To aggravate his misery he had now contracted debts, for which the bailiffs hunted him from every retreat. At length the scale of wretchedness was completed, and Savage was consigned to a prison!

It has been justly observed that he who does not respect himself can have little hope of obtaining the respect of others; and that the man who dissipates the means of acquiring independence has no right to complain if he experience the evils of indigence. In his prison Savage attempted to alleviate the sufferings of confinement by writing a satire, entitled "London and Bristol delineated." "To gratify the petulance of his wit and the eagerness

of his resentment," says Dr. Johnson, "he could forget on a sudden his danger and his *obligations.*" All the kindnesses and all the caresses he had ever received, even the liberal collection which had averted from him the pressure of present calamity, were buried in oblivion. The melancholy fact indeed is, that in this, as in every other circumstance of his life, Savage was the slave of his passions; and this slavery reciprocally produced a life irregular and dissipated. He was not master of his own motions, nor could promise any thing for the next day. The complete execution of his plan was interrupted by his death, which happened on the 31st of July, 1743. He was buried in the church-yard of St. Peter, at the expence of the keeper, Mr. Dagg; whose treatment of this unfortunate prisoner had always been marked by humanity and benevolence. The remains of Savage were mingled with the felon and the pauper; nor does any inscription point out the spot consecrated by the ashes of genius.

"From the life of Savage we learn, that superior capacities or attainments will not justify a disregard of the common maxims of life; that nothing will supply the want of prudence; and that negligence and irregularity long continued, will make knowledge useless, wit ridiculous, and genius contemptible."

At no great distance from the ancient gate was a grammar-school, which is mentioned by Worcester, who has also preserved the names of two of its masters. Of this establishment no particulars have been recorded, nor is it even mentioned by any writer upon topography which the author has consulted. The passage in Worcester may be thus translated : " At New-gate, where formerly was a grammar-school, conducted by Mr. Robert Lane, the principal grammarian, together with ——— Leland, a master of grammar in Oxford, who is reported to have been the most eminent grammarian and poet of his time, or of many preceding years; and at the time in which I first came to Oxford for the prosecution of my studies, died at the end of the Easter term in the year 1432, about the month of June, when the general eclipse happened upon the day of Saint Botulphus."* This curious passage records a very interesting fact in the history of Bristol, and contemplated in conjunction with the public library of the Kalendaries, presents a pleasing picture of the literary character of the citizens in the fifteenth century.

* At New-yate ubi quondam scola grammatica per magistrum Robertum Lane principalem grammaticum cum Leland magistro grammaticorum in Oxonia, dicebatur fuisse flos grammaticorum et poetarum temporibus annis plurimis revolutis, et tempore quo primum veni ad Oxoniam universitatem scolatizandi obiit in termino paschæ A. D. 1432 circa mensem junii, quando generalis eclipsis die sancti Botulphi accidebat." Itin. de Wor. p. 178.

An act of the legislature has been obtained for erecting a prison, a sessions and council-house, in buildings contiguous to each other. The opposition which the measure experienced has hitherto prevented its execution, and the delay has been so considerable that it is now generally understood that the act is not intended to be carried into effect. If any circumstance render the execution of the plan desirable, it is that the victims of public justice may no longer be obtruded upon the public view. In Bristol, however, this inconvenience is comparatively inconsiderable from the infrequency of such spectacles. During the last five years no instance has occurred, notwithstanding the capital convictions of every session of oyer and terminer have been at least three. Thus is the execution of the law tempered with mercy, and refined by the general dissemination of liberal and philanthropic sentiments, while the criminal code is characterised by a severity little inferior to that of Draco. Those who contend for the abolition of capital punishment because experience has determined that they are inadequate for the prevention of crimes, may rejoice in this practical acknowledgment of their inutility, since it pledges the national honour to render the criminal laws at least equally mild with the established practice of the courts.

CONTENTS

OF

CHAPTER THE SECOND.

Society of the Kalendaries; its Antiquity proved by Worcester and Leland; place in which it was held; Members of which the Society was composed; its Library; Dissolution—Ricaut, one of the Kalendaries—Nunnery of Mary Magdalen; Situation; History and Dissolution—Franciscan Friary—The Carmelites—Biographic Notice of Hooper—St. Bartholomew's Hospital—Convent of Dominican Friars—The Society of the Knights' Templars—Augustine Friary—Fraternity of the Holy Ghost—St. Vincent's Chapel—Hermitage of St. Brendan—Chapels of theCastle—Chapels on the Bridge and on the Back—Martyrs—Notices of Sharp, Hale, and Benion—Persecution of the Quakers—Comparative Numbers of Religious Sects in the Nineteenth Century.

CHAPTER THE SECOND.

IT has generally been asserted and almost as generally believed, that the natural progress of the human mind as well as of nations is from barbarism to refinement and from refinement to imbecility. Of individuals this assertion may be admitted as generally correct; but that the same conclusion should be adopted of the progress of intellect, appears as inconsistent with the decisions of liberal philosophy as it is certainly repugnant to the feelings of that philanthrophy which expects the final triumph of virtue and of happiness, from the constant advancement and general diffusion of the discoveries of science.

Opposed however to these speculations of philosophy are the decisions of experience. It is certain that the human mind did arrive at a high degree of perfection in the empires of Greece and Rome, and in comparatively a short period after, sunk into that dreadful ignorance which has obtained for the period of its duration the humiliating but appropriate title of the " ages of darkness."*

The civil history of Bristol has been continued through this period, and from the dawn of philosophy and science to the present age, in which it may be presumed they are approaching their meridian splendour. But before we enter more immediately into the ecclesiastical history of Bristol, we shall detail some few of the effects which were produced in Bristol by the diffusion of that puerile superstition which was the characteristic of the dark ages. Such as the erection of the secluded cloister or gloomy monastery, together with similar structures which derived their origin from the piety of the times.

Among the most ancient establishments of this

* If it be contended that this retrogation can be effected only by the operation of causes as violent as extraordinary, the state of literature in Spain during the last age is a proof that the same effect may be produced by different causes; however retarded in the *rapidity* of its progress by the art of printing.

nature, not only of Bristol but perhaps of the kingdom, was the society of the Kalendaries, so denominated according to some from the time of their general meetings, which are said to have been usually held on the Calends or first days of the month; but according to others the name is derived from their keeping kalenders or registers of the public acts, and other interesting transactions of the city. The objects for which this society was first instituted it is impossible at this distance of time to ascertain; but those to which its attention was directed in the most flourishing periods of the society appear to have been the recording of such occurrences in the history of Bristol, and probably also in the history of the kingdom, as were deemed worthy of notice; the cultivation of the literature of the times, the conversion of jews and infidels to christianity, and the education of youth. In this period of its history and in the prosecution of these objects, the society of the Kalendaries appear to have had some coincidence with the objects which the society of Jesus professed to prosecute in the early periods of its history; before it was polluted by mingling in all the low intrigues of a narrow, crooked and guilty policy.

To the antiquity of the society of the Kalendaries the most unexceptionable testimony is a confirmation of its rights and privileges granted them by

Cardinal Gualo,* the pope's legate, immediately after crowning Henry III. at Glocester in 1216. This confirmation is expressly stated to have been granted them on account both of their great antiquity and eminent services; from which it is evident that the society must have existed a very considerable period before the year 1216 and had then obtained a distinguished reputation.

William of Worcester visited the Kalendaries about 1478, and it appears that his maternal uncle Thomas Botoner had been a member of the society, but he gives no information respecting him, except that he was buried in the north part of the new aisle of All-Saints' church. He denominates it a "college of presbyters" and affirms it to be of high antiquity; "that it was founded in honour of the feast of Corpus Christi, long before the Norman conquest about the year 700."† It would

* It appears from a manuscript of Ricaut, in the possession of the Corporation, denominated the "little red book," that Henry III. and Gualo visited the Kalendaries and held a council in Bristol, in which all the privileges of the society were confirmed. In the same MS. is preserved a deed, in which the principal facts relative to the antiquity of the Kalendaries are recapitulated, and the confirmation of the legate is referred to as having been granted "propter antiquitates et bonitates in ea gildâ repertas."

† Collegium presbitorum vocatum le kalenders in occidentali parte ecclesiæ omnium sanctorum in quo collegio Thomas Botoner avun-

also seem that the members of the society were anxious to convince him of the antiquity of the institution ; and for this purpose exhibited several deeds, which produced a firm conviction that their pretensions to a high antiquity were founded upon historical documents.* Leland† also in his mention of the Kalendaries, affirms that the original of this society " is out of mind," or of very great antiquity.

The society was originally held in the church of the Holy Trinity,‡ afterwards denominated Christ Church, which was taken down, in order to give place to the present elegant structure, in 1787.

culus meus fuit frater collegii, et sepelitur in meridionali novæ ecclesiæ omnium sanctorum, ab antiquo fundatum diu ante conquestum Willelmi Conquestoris. Itin. de Worcestre, page 190.

It must be remembered that all the quotations from Worcester are taken *literally* and *verbally* from the published copy of his Itinerary, and consequently that the author of this work is in no degree responsible for the latinity.

* Fraternitas fundata ante tempus Willelmi Conquestoris Angliæ circa annum Christi 700, ut per literas certificatorias tempore Sancti Wolstani episcopi sub antiqua manu vidi et legi. Itin. de Wor. page 253.

† Leland's Itinerary, Vol. vii.

‡ Ante tempus Edwardi tercii [fraternitas] scita in ecclesia parochiali sanctæ trinitatis, ut per relacionem prioris dicti prioratus certificatum fuit. Itin. de Wor. page 253.

This was one of the four ancient structures which it is supposed were formerly in the centre of the city, and surrounded the High-Cross. It was afterwards removed to the church of All-Saints, in which it continued till the dissolution. The house and school of the Kalendaries appear to have been of considerable extent, and it is by no means improbable that the space upon which the exchange is erected, was originally the burying-ground of this society.

The members of the society of the Kalendaries are said to have consisted of the clergy and commonalty of Bristol. It is, therefore, probable that the number of its members was different in different periods; but the direction of the society appears to have been vested in a prior, who, with four chaplains or chauntry priests, constituted the ecclesiastical part of the establishment.

By far the most interesting part of the establishment of the Kalendaries was their library, which was accessible to all the citizens. The liberality, indeed, of its regulations in this particular, entitles it to the highest commendation, and is deserving of a more general imitation in similar establishments. It was ordered that on festival days, two hours before nine and for two hours after, free access should be granted to *all* who were disposed to read

or to consult the books contained in the library, and the prior was directed to attend for that purpose, as well as to explain such difficulties as might occur to those who came for the sake of instruction.

The situation of the library was over the north aisle of the church of All-Saints, towards Corn-street, but by the several repairs and alterations which the church has undergone is now entirely removed. The books which the library contained are represented to have related principally to Saxon antiquities, history and law, and to have amounted to eight hundred. The library was unfortunately destroyed by a fire in 1466, by which many very valuable manuscripts were lost, and with them many of the records and archives of Bristol.

One of the most eminent members of this society was Robert Ricaut, of whom a biographic notice has already been given among the recorders, and to whom frequent references have been made in the course of this work. Nor is it by any means improbable that Canyngs, and if the existence of Rowley* and the other characters mentioned in

* It is deserving of observation that reception and rejection are precisely the same intellectual processes, so far as they are connected with mental exertion. Patience of investigation as it is the characteristic of intellectual superiority, so it is in consequence limited to

the Rowleian poems be admitted, it is highly probable that they also were members of this establishment, and cultivated, it may be imbibed, their love for literature from its library.

During this period of the history of Bristol its literature obtained a distinguished place in the literary history of the age. This pre-eminence is conspicuous in the many literary characters it produced in that age, and is unquestionably to be ascribed to the influence of its *public* library. It may be true that genius will " trample upon im-

the few. The majority will always reject or adopt with all the promptitude of intuition.

It is by no means intended that these general observations should be understood in depreciation of the talents of any of those who have engaged in the Rowleian controversy. The ability and erudition of the disputants, and the services that controversy has rendered to the literature of the fifteenth century, constitute, in the opinion of the author, its *real* importance. The immediate object of this note was to observe, that to deny the existence of such a person as Rowley seems no trifling degree of scepticism; since it is an indubitable fact that such a family long flourished in Bristol, and in the age of Canyngs was very numerous and of great respectability. Thomas Rowley filled the office of bailiff, in 1466, and William Rowley, in 1474. Walter Rowley and William Rowley are recorded among the benefactors to All-Saints' church; and there are two persons of the name of Thomas Rowley, mentioned in the register of the diocese of Wells; one of whom is supposed by Mr. Bryant to be the author of the Rowleian Poems. See Observations on the Poems attributed to Rowley, page 535, 543, 544.

possibilities,"* and *create* the advantages which it does not possess; yet the literary character of a *city* or a *nation* will never rise to mediocrity if it be not fostered by public libraries conducted in the genuine spirit of liberality.

After the destruction of their library no remarkable events are recorded of the Kalendaries till they sunk amid the general ravages which the avarice of Henry VIII. occasioned among similar establishments.

In point of antiquity the next ecclesiastical establishment of Bristol was a nunnery dedicated to Mary Magdalen. This appears to have been the most ancient nunnery in Bristol, and was founded by Eva, wife of Robert Fitzharding, founder of the monastery of St. Augustine, and niece of William the Conqueror, about the year 1140.

The nunnery of Mary Magdalen stood nearly on the ground now occupied by the inn known by the sign of the King-David, at the bottom of St. Michael's-Hill,† and gave the name of

* "I trample upon impossibilities" was the energetic language of the *great* Chatham, which, as characteristic of the undeviating decision of mental superiority, may claim a pre-eminence with similarity to the maxim of Horace, "Nil mortalibus arduum est."

† Prope ecclesiam Sancti Michaelis. Itin. de Wor. p. 264.

Magdalen-Lane to the avenue conducting to St. Michael's-Hill, now corrupted into Maudlin-Lane.*

Forming our conceptions from novels or romances rather than from historical testimony, it has been the fashion of modern times to associate dissoluteness with our conceptions of monasteries, and impurity with the establishment of a nunnery. In these general conclusions are forgotten the piety and resignation which might have frequently been found in the gloomy cloister, and the meekness and saint-like submission which were generally the inhabitants of the nunnery. In this levelling principle we forget that in these establishments the indigent had their wants supplied, and the children of sorrow and suffering found a ready asylum, in which the hand of sympathy was always cheerfully extended to mitigate affliction.

The nunnery of Mary Magdalen may be placed

* The names of streets, &c. may afford materials for thinking during the perambulation of a large city, which lead to subjects intimately connected with its history. The bridge over the Froom, conducting from the Broad-Weir to Castle-Ditch, was anciently denominated *Ella's* bridge; and the street adjoining, now called Ellbroad-Street, was originally *Ella's-Bridge-Street;* a name probably derived from the individual upon whom the incomparable tragedy of Ella has conferred an immortality of reputation.

among the number of those religious establishments which have a tendency to rectify such erroneous conceptions. In 1284, Giffard, bishop of Worcester, visited this house to inspect its regulations and the morals of its inhabitants. Upon both of these he bestowed the highest encomiums, and reported that nothing relative to the establishment required an alteration, except that the vicar of St. Michael's had detained from the nuns an annual rent of two shillings and two pounds of pepper and cummins, for which he was ordered to make immediate restitution.

In regard to its revenues this nunnery appears to have been very distant from a splendid establishment. At the period of its dissolution it was valued at the trifling sum of twenty-one pounds eleven shillings and three pence per annum; but even this indigence presented too great a temptation to royal avarice* to be resisted, and it fell amid the general pillage in 1540.

It appears that Bristol, prior to the dissolution, contained several other religious houses, some of which have given place to other edifices, and have

* Whatever advantages have resulted from the dissolution of monasteries and other religious houses, no praise is due to Henry, since it is unquestionable that avarice and revenge were the tyrant's only motives for their dissolution.

scarcely left a trace to point out their precise situation. Others have been appropriated to the different purposes of benevolence or of commerce, but have been so mutilated and changed by the alterations they have undergone at different times, as to convey very imperfect conceptions of what they once were.

Besides the nunnery of Mary Magdalen, Leland mentions a nunnery dedicated to Saint Margaret*; and it appears that there was also a nunnery attached to the church of Saint Lawrence, which stood near Saint John's in Bell-Lane. Of neither of these structures are any traces at present discoverable, and no particulars respecting them have been recorded.

The principal convent of Bristol was probably that of the franciscan, or grey friars, which was situated in Lewin's-Mead, at no great distance from the spot on which is now erected Lewin's-Mead-Meeting. Tanner mentions this convent in the Notitia Monastica, and Leland describes its situation as on the right bank of the river Froom, not far from the hospital of Saint Bartholomew, which is now the city-school. This convent was

* "There was an hospital of old tyme where of late was a nunrye called St. Margaret's. Leland's Itinerary, Vol. vii.

founded about the year 1223, but who was its founder and what were the revenues with which it was endowed it is now impossible to determine. The probability, indeed, is that the houses of the monks were never endowed with great revenues at their erection, their churches which were generally large being the principal source from which their income was derived; either from the legacies of those who chose to be buried in them, or from such funds as the piety of our ancestors appropriated to secure the prayers of the clergy for the repose of departed spirits.

Worcester describes the church of this convent as it stood in 1480, in the following terms. "The choir of the church contains in length fifty steps, the breadth of the choir eighteen steps, the length of the nave of the said church with the two aisles contains fifty-two steps, the breadth of the belfry square tower contains seven steps; there are four arches in the north nave of the church, and as many in the south.* This church, together with the convent and whatever other buildings were connected with it, have been entirely destroyed, and the only remaining trace of its existence is that

* Ecclesia et conventus fratrum sancti Francisci in parochia Sancti Jacobi in vico Lewenysmede, &c. Itin. de Wor. 237 et 284.

the space upon which it is supposed to have stood is called the " White Friars."

Of the other ancient religious houses in Bristol the next in importance is that of the Carmelites; whether the splendour of the establishment or the eminent persons connected with its history be made the criterion of determination. It was situated on the eminence a little above the Froom, which was then denominated Friar's Hill, but at present Saint Augustine's-Place, on the ground now occupied by Colston's school. The extent of the house of the carmelites, sometimes called a friary and at others a priory, was from Colston's school to the red-lodge, and it appears to have occupied all the space from Pipe-Lane to Steep-Street. Leland denominates it a priory, and describes its situation to be " on the right bank of the Froome, over against the Key," and bestows upon it the high commendation of being the " fairest of all the houses of the frieries in Bristol."

The house of the carmelites claims the honour of a royal foundation, since it was founded, according to Speed, in 1267, by Edward I. probably before his accession to the throne.* After it had

* Worcester gives the dimensions of the church of the carmelites, but has recorded no circumstances respecting them. Itin. de Wor. page 188.

flourished during nearly three centuries with peculiar splendour and with a very distinguished reputation for the piety and learning of its members, it experienced the same fate as similar establishments which fell under the rapacious hands of Henry VIII.

Among the priors of the carmelites will be found some of the most illustrious characters of the age in which they respectively flourished. Of these Milverton, Stow, and Spine, will constitute distinct articles in the chapter it is proposed to appropriate to the biography of eminent persons natives of Bristol. It must suffice here to notice that Nicholas Cantilupe, D. D. of the University of Cambridge, was prior of the carmelites, and died at Northampton in 1441. His successor, John Hooper, was prior at the period of the dissolution, and is celebrated as a man of great learning for the age in which he lived. After the dissolution he resided during some time upon the continent, and having enjoyed considerable intercourse with the first opposers of popery became a convert to the doctrines of the reformation. He returned to England about the year 1550, where his learning, candour and piety, procured him the dignity of a mitre by an elevation to the bishopric of Glocester. This distinguished situation, notwithstanding he adorned it with all the virtues of primitive chris-

tianity, marked him as a victim for the demon of persecution; and Hooper obtained the crown of martyrdom in 1569, amid the destruction occasioned by the intolerant bigotry of the deluded Mary. The scene of his martyrdom was before the west gate of the cathedral of Glocester.*

After the dissolution, the carmelite friary was purchased by the corporation, and sold by them again in the beginning of the reign of Elizabeth, divided into two estates. The friary was purchased by Thomas Chester, Esq. and the lodge by Thomas Rowland, merchant; but the whole appears to have been soon afterwards purchased by Sir John Young, who erected the house at present appropriated to the school as a mansion-house. This was the usual residence of the nobility who visited Bristol, and was once honoured by the presence of Queen Elizabeth, who kept her court and held a council there during her residence in Bristol. Sir Fernando Gorges inhabited it in 1642, and when he quitted it Mr. Lane became its purchaser, who converted it into a sugar-house. Thus it remained till the truly great Colston bought it in 1708, to dedicate it to the noblest objects of benevolence, that by diffusing among the children of indigence the blessings of education, he might lay

* Fox's martyrology.

the firmest foundation for a superstructure sacred to virtue and to happiness.

The building which is at present used as the city-school, was a religious house dedicated to Saint Bartholomew. It is denominated by Leland an hospital, and described as in a ruinous condition at the time he visited it, probably about 1535; and Worcester mentions it as having been anciently "a priory of regular canons."* From which accounts it is probable that it was originally designed for a priory, but was afterwards converted into a lazar house, or hospital principally for the relief of persons labouring under the leprosy.

In extent the priory of Saint Bartholomew was considerable. On one side it was contiguous to the franciscan friary, and on another it nearly extended to the nunnery of Mary Magdalen. The date of its erection has not been recorded, but the honour of the foundation has been ascribed to one of the ancestors of Lord de la Warre.

At the period of the dissolution the hospital was purchased by the executors of Mr. Robert Thorn,

* Ecclesia Sancti Bartholomi, quondam prioratus canonicorum regularium per antecessores domini de le Warre fundata, et modo hospitale pauperum. Itin. de Wor. page 208.

for the erection of a free grammar-school; for which purpose it was used during several years, till the grammar-school was removed to Trinity-street, and the city-school to the hospital of Saint Bartholomew.

There was a convent of dominican, or black friars, at a little distance from the river Froom, near the spot which is at present occupied by the friends' meeting-house. Part of the cloister still remains; the building over it has been appropriated to a charity-school, and is occasionally used as a dissenting place of worship.

The ruins of the church of this convent existed so late as the year 1748, and are represented to have been of considerable extent and some degree of magnificence. The dimensions of the church have been preserved by William of Worcester in the following terms. "The length of the choir was forty-four paces, and its breadth fourteen; the nave of the church contained fifty-eight paces in length, and thirty-four in breadth; and the cloister extended on the four sides of the church forty paces. He gives the names of the most eminent persons who were buried in the church; among which are those of Richard Spicer, the founder of Saint George's chapel in the Guildhall, and of William

Botoner his brother, who died on the 15th December, 1429.*

Maurice de Gaunt is represented by Leland as the founder of this convent about the year 1228. Maurice was heir to Robert de Gourney, probably the founder of the house of the Gaunts, now denominated the Mayor's Chapel, but certainly a great benefactor to the establishment. Several members of this illustrious family were buried in the church of the dominicans, but the monuments which were designed to perpetuate their memory have been unfaithful to the deposit, and they, together with their records, are now sunk into oblivion.

The society of the knights templars, afterwards denominated the prior and brethren of Saint John of Jerusalem, had their house in the parish of Temple, probably near Temple-Gate, and adjoining the cloisters of the Augustinian Friary. This society was of some antiquity and possessed considerable wealth and influence. Its institution is generally referred to the beginning of the twelfth century, and Dugdale† mentions Robert earl of Glocester as a liberal benefactor to the society. Their wealth enabled them to found Temple church, which derives its name from the society, though it

* Itin. de Wor. page 233, 234. † Monasticon, Vol. II.

does not appear that the total expences of completing it were defrayed by them, as the church seems to have been erected at different periods.

The estates of the society were extensive, and its influence so great that it enabled the prior and brethren of Saint John of Jerusalem to claim an extensive jurisdiction independently of the civil authority of Bristol. This jurisdiction was exerted in granting and defending several peculiar privileges of the inhabitants of Temple, who for the most part were the society's tenants. The corporation refused to recognize this jurisdiction, and actually violated the privileges claimed in consequence of it by the inhabitants of Temple. A controversy arose and litigation ensued between the lord prior and the corporation, which was not determined till the entire dissolution of the existing ecclesiastical power and polity in the kingdom gave the civil authority a splendid triumph.

It is difficult to ascertain if the privileges* claimed by the inhabitants of Temple by virtue of the grant of the lord prior, were the same as those

* One of the *privileges* which they claimed was "the liberty of selling their merchandize in open shops without molestation;" and another "that no processes should be served in their parish by the city officers." Thus it is probable that Temple as well as Redcliff were originally appendages rather than parts of the city.

which they claimed as belonging to Temple fee. It does, however, appear that the peculiar privileges belonging to Temple Fee, were resigned to the opposition they encountered some time before the dissolution.

At the period of the dissolution the estates of the society were purchased by the corporation, and have continued in their possession to the present time. Of these estates it may deserve observation, that, as the lands were the property of a religious establishment, they were exempt from tythes, and that the exemption still continues.

In the same parish, and, probably, at no great distance from the establishment of the brethren of St. John of Jerusalem, was a convent of friars under the denomination of the "Brothers Eremites of St. Augustine." Sir Simon and Sir William Montacute have the honour of the foundation of this convent, which appears, from William of Worcester, to have been consecrated in the month of July in the year 1320.*

Tanner mentions "the Augustine friars house, which was near Temple gate, within it, on the north side."† It is also mentioned by Worcester,

* Itin. de Wor. page 232. † Notitia Monastica.

who describes its church, which appears to have been very small.* With its history no interesting circumstances are connected; and it has so completely vanished in the lapse of time, that, independently of historical testimony, not a single trace remains of its former existence.

In addition to the societies, or religious communities, which have already been noticed, some others anciently existed in Bristol, of which few circumstances have been recorded. Of these one of the most ancient was a society denominated "the fraternity of St. John the Baptist," which was attached to the church of St. Ewen, and had a chapel in that church appropriated to the society, and dedicated to St. John. Whether this society was a religious or secular establishment rests entirely upon conjecture, and therefore must be undetermined. The evidence for its existence is principally derived from William of Worcester, who mentions, in his description of the church of St. Ewen, the chapel belonging "to the fraternity of John the Baptist.†

It is probable that after the dissolution, when

* Itin de Wor. page 229.

† Capella in parte meridionali ecclesiæ parochialis Sancti Audeoni, quæ capella est in honore Sancti Johannis Baptista, et fraternitas magnifica pertinet dictæ capellæ.—Itin. de Wor. page 253.

the society of merchant taylors became a chartered company, their usual place of meeting was the chapel of the fraternity of St. John, from which circumstance the history of these societies have been confounded with each other. The chapel of the fraternity of St. John was on the south side of the church of St. Ewen, and was removed to erect the old council-house in 1552.

A similar society to that of the fraternity of St. John the Baptist was attached to St. Nicholas church. This society possessed a chapel in that church, denominated "the chapel to the honour of the Holy Cross,"* but the usual place of the society's meetings was in the crypt, or croud. This was in the genuine spirit of monkish institutions, and seems inseparable from monkish feelings, literally "to *love* darkness rather than light." The society had assumed the appellation of the fraternity of the Holy Ghost; but no other circumstance is recorded of them, except that the "drynkyng of the brotherhoode on Holy-rood day" amounted to five pounds, six shillings, when *double* ale was charged at two-pence per gallon in the money of the times.

There was a religious society under the same

* Itin. de Wor. page 249.

appellation attached to Redcliff church, which possessed a chapel in it dedicated to the Holy Ghost. Few particulars concerning this society have been recorded, and those few possess such similarity to the history of the societies which have already been noticed, that their repetition would excite no interest, either in the antiquary, or the general reader.

In this survey of the effects of that puerile superstition, which was the characteristic of the dark ages, it would be a considerable deficiency in the history of religious structures in Bristol, to omit the chapels, which were erected during this period. Of these the first which solicits attention is that dedicated to St. Vincent; from whom the rocks, which frown in awful grandeur, adjoining the Hotwells, derive their appellation.

It is by no means easy to determine whether this building, which was erected on the highest part of the rocks, was in reality a chapel, or, which is most probable, merely an hermitage. Its patron saint is said to have been a native of Spain, and to have suffered martyrdom in the commencement of the fourth century. The rocks alone at present preserve his name; but the well itself was originally denominated the well of Saint Vincent.

Worcester in his mention of this hermitage has included a church, situated on the highest point of the clift which he calls Ghystonclyff.*

On the adjoining down, which Worcester denominated Thyrdam-doune, he informs us was a small chapel of the Holy Cross,† situated between the hermitage of St. Vincent and the college of Westbury.

Similar to St. Vincent's was the hermitage dedicated to St. Brendan, from which Brendan-Hill derives its name. The patron of this hermitage was a native of Ireland; but no other particulars concerning him have been ascertained. Worcester says that this hermitage belonged to the priory of St. James and adds that the hill upon which it is situated is said to bear a resemblance to mount Calvary, near Jerusalem.‡ William of Wickham mentions this hermitage, and informs us that forty days of indulgence had been granted to Reginald Taillor, the hermit, in 1403. It also appears that a female anchorite was the inhabitant of the hermitage about 1352, who had requested and obtained permission from the bishop of Worcester to withdraw from the pleasures and temptations of

* Itin. de Wor. page 261. † Itin. de Wor. page 202.
‡ Itin. de Wor. page 261.

chapel of the Virgin was destroyed during the tumult of the civil commotions in 1644.

A small chapel dedicated to Saint Giles formerly stood near the church of St. Leonard, which was taken down in 1772, with the gate attached to it, in order to afford space for the erection of Clare-Street. It was united with St. Leonard's as early as 1301, and no interesting circumstances respecting it have been recorded.

In Baldwin-Street was an ancient chapel deserving notice for having been the school of Mathews, in which Henry II. and Robert Fitzharding first lord of Berkeley, and founder of the monastery of St. Augustine, were educated. It is said to have been afterwards converted into a mansion, in which Fitzharding is represented to have resided. In a subsequent period it appears that there was a small chapel near this, dedicated to St. John.

Upon the Back was a chapel dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The founder of this chapel is denominated by Worcester a venerable merchant, whose name was —— Knap.* Its endowment was for the maintenance of two priests, whose duty was to celebrate mass every morning at five, that

* Itin. de Wor. page 226.

the merchants, mariners, and such persons as were employed in loading or unloading vessels, might have an opportunity of attending divine worship, before they mixed in the ordinary business and pleasures of the day.

These are the principal ancient structures of Bristol appropriated to religion, of which any historical account has been preserved. In this survey a few ancient churches have been omitted, that they might with more propriety, be comprised in the historical notice of the churches with which they were consolidated. It must suffice to mention here, the names and situations of these churches, referring to other parts of the work for such circumstances as may be connected with their history. The first is the church of St. Ewen, one of the four ancient churches, which are said to have sursurrounded the High Cross, opposite to the church of All Saints, behind the council-house, consolidated with Christ church. Worcester mentions the parish of St. Egide in Small-street, which was united with the parish of St. Laurence, or of St. Leonard, in the reign of Edward III. It appears also, that this church contained a chapel or temple for the use of the Jews.* The church of St. Laurence was in a line with St. John's, towards

* Itin. page 249.

the east, and consolidated with it; St. Leonard's was consolidated with St. Nicholas. The churches of St. John, St. Laurence, St. Edige,* and St. Leonard's were in the circular wall which constituted the boundary, and in part, the fortification of the old city. Canyng's chapel, and some other ancient buildings, will be described in the appendix, in which it is proposed to give as accurate an account as can be obtained, of the existing antiquities of Bristol.

To this account of the ancient religious structures of Bristol, may be added a brief notice of two others in its vicinity, which are frequently mentioned in connexion with them in the early periods of its history. The buildings referred to are the monastery at Westbury on the Trym, and the abbey of Black Canons, at Keynsham. It is only necessary to premise that these notices, and the account of the city crosses which succeeds them, are extracted from a valuable manuscript history of Bristol, which appears to have been commenced previously to the year 1773, and was continued to the year 1790. This manuscript is the property of a descendant of its author, to whom we owe our best acknowledgments, for the prompt liberality

* Ecclesia parochialis Sancti Laurencii scita directa linea ex parte orientali ecclesiæ parochialis Sancti Egidii. Itin. de. Wor. p. 249.

with which he permitted us to use its contents.

" Westbury, anciently Westminster on Trim, or Trymme. A monastery here is mentioned in the acts of the Synod of Clovesho, A.D. 824, which, with several lands hereabouts, was given by Ethelric, son of Ethelmund, after the death of his mother, to the bishopric of Worcester. But Oswald, bishop of that see, in 983 replaced the monks, who had been partly removed to Ramsey, and partly driven away by the wars. This religious house was rebuilt in 1093, to the honour of the Blessed Virgin; the old possessions were recovered, new were added, and the monks were restored by Wulstan, bishop of Worcester; who made it a cell to the priory of Worcester. But his successor, bishop Sampson, in the reign of Henry I. revoked the said grant, and removed the monks. From which time nothing occurs of any religious house in this place till about 1228, when Godfrey Giffard, bishop of Worcester, endeavoured to make several churches in these parts of the patronage of Worcester prebendal to this of Westbury, which, after great opposition from the prior and convent of Worcester, he effected; and here became a college for a dean and canons in the gift of the bishop of Worcester, and dedicated to the Holy Trinity. This college was afterwards augmented by the benefactions of John

Carpenter, bishop of Worcester, (who sometimes styled himself bishop of Westbury,) Richard, Duke of York, Edward IV. William Cannings, who was afterwards dean here, and others. At the dissolution it was valued at 223*l.* 14*s.* per annum, and was granted by Henry VIII. to Sir Ralph Sadler."*

"The abbey of the Black Canons, at Keynsham, was founded by William, earl of Gloucester, about the year 1170, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary, to St. Peter, and St. Paul. It was valued at the dissolution at 419*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.* according to Dugdale, and at 450*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* according to Speed, and granted by Edward VI. to Thomas Bridges, Esq."

The principal ancient crosses of Bristol were five:

1.—St. Alledge or Stallange Cross, stood near the Long-row; but whether in St. Thomas or Temple-street, is not certain. The manuscript before mentioned says, "in St. Thomas-street, opposite the west front of the corner house on the right hand going into the Long-row."*

2.—"Temple Cross, in Temple-street, at the north end was a stone building in the form of a pinnacle, with ornamented Gothic members."

* MS. Memoirs and Annals of Bristol.

3.—"The High Cross, in High-street, was erected in 1373, and in succeeding times was adorned with the statues of four kings who had been benefactors to the city. These faced the four adjoining streets: that of John being northward, Henry III. eastward, Edward III. westward, and Edward IV. southward. In 1633 it was taken down, enlarged, and raised higher, when four other statues were added, viz. Henry VI. on the east, Elizabeth on the west, James I. on the south, and Charles I. on the north. It was at the same time surrounded with iron rails, gilded and painted. About 1736 it was removed to the middle of College-Green. It was again taken down in 1754, and is now standing at Stourhead, in Wiltshire, the seat of Sir R. C. Hoare. The height of it was thirty-nine feet six inches."

4.—"St. Peter's Cross stood at the west end of St. Peter's-street, on a turret adorned with statues supported on four pillars with arches, and under the turret was a well with a pump for public use. This cross was taken down in 1768, and another well, which communicates with that old well, was digged, and a public pump placed at the corner of Dolphin-street."

5.—"Baldwin's Cross stood on the north bank

of the Froom, before the course of that river was altered in 1247, and near a mill, called Baldwin's Cross Mill. This mill had three water wheels, as appears by the number of thoroughs, converted afterwards into so many cellars and filled up with rubbish in 1773, because of their being rendered useless by the waters rising in them. Those three vents or thoroughs were under the corner house of that part of Baldwin-street, opposite the lane leading to Blind Steps. On the coin-end story post of that house there is now [1774] to be seen the figure of a man, cut or carved in base relievo, which, according to tradition, was done for one called Johnny Ball,* a principal person concerned in building [old] Bristol bridge. As was also carved on the corner post of a house at the end of that bridge and corner of Redcliff-street, the figure of one David Mitchel, another such person in that undertaking, which house was pulled down with the old bridge about 1762."†

Religious opinions in Bristol, prior to the reformation, were, probably, the same as in other parts of the popish world, in which the majority were usually content to believe what their superiors, in the plentitude of their wisdom and charity, were pleased to prescribe. This mental tyranny, how-

* Perhaps the same person from whom Johnny-Ball-Lane derives its appellation. † M.S. Memoirs and Annals of Bristol.

ever, was too unnatural to continue for ever, because that creed which is the conception of tyranny, is always too absurd to bear the most distant approach of the spirit of investigation It is true, that in the struggle which ensued, bigotry and cruelty combined with the worst of tyranny, in the sanguinary career of intolerance; but it was only to witness, finally, the triumphs of the mild spirit of humanity, religion, and philosophy.

When the demon of persecution inspired Mary with the determination of brandishing her savage torch, three of her victims were selected from among the citizens of Bristol, to swell the crowds she sacrificed at the shrine of bigotry. These were selected from among those of the humblest rank in society, and, destitute of the power which is procured by wealth, they appear to have possessed none of the influence which is derived from superior talents. Their piety was ardent, their faith sincere, their integrity undeviating, and in consequence of possessing these qualities, they preferred the approbation of their consciences to every other consideration. But characters such as these, the victims of persecution always must be; for "knaves who care not," or "fools who understand not," will always be ready to accomodate themselves to circumstances, to worship as they are bidden, or to think as they are commanded.

To the honour of Holyman, at that time bishop of Bristol, it is recorded of him, that he refused to act any part in the persecutions of the times. The prosecutor was William Dalby, the chancellor of the diocese, who appears to have been distinguished by no quality, except the cruelty of intolerance, and whose name would have long since been buried in oblivion, if it had not thus been handed down to the execration of posterity.

The names of the victims were Richard Sharp, Thomas Hale, and Thomas Benion. Sharp and Benion were weavers, and Hale was a shoemaker. Of individuals in their humble sphere, the biography, if known, would excite no considerable interest; but the fact is, that little has been recorded for the gratification of curiosity. They were convicted of heresy, by denying the doctrine of transubstantiation, and were burned in 1557. Sharp and Hale suffered together on the seventh of May, and Benion on the thirteenth of the following August. Their fortitude was supported by the ardour of their faith, and their triumph shall be splendid at the resurrection of the just.

In the course of a few years popery became unfashionable at court, and protestantism was invested with all the power royal protection could bestow. This change effected a complete revolu-

tion in the conduct of the professors of the religion who had so severely felt, and so loudly reprobated, the interference of the civil authority with religious principles. The persecuted became persecutors, and thus demonstrated to the world, that it was not the principle of persecution they had disapproved, but its application. This effect might be produced either by deficiency of information, or depravity of principle; except it be referred to the indubitable maxim that an undue attachment to any system of religious opinions, abstracted from the immutable and eternal obligations of morality, is the natural parent of persecution.*

Among the sects who most severely felt the effects of protestant persecution in Bristol, the Quakers were conspicuous. Their sufferings might afford materials for a "tale of horror;" the details of which, in fiction, might amuse; but in historical narration could not fail to "harrow up the soul." Of this sect it deserves observation—that whether they are contemplated as the victims

* The beauty and importance of the following passage from one of the fathers, upon the subject of persecution, must apologise for its introduction:—"Defendenda religio est, non occidendo, sed moriendo, non sævitiâ sed patientiâ: si sanguine, si tormentis, si MALO religionem defendere velis; jam non defendetur, sed POLLUETUR atque VIOLABITUR.

of persecution, or as legislators, their conduct has always been in unison with christian philanthropy. The religious liberty, which they have asked for themselves, they have uniformly allowed to their fellow-men. The page of history is unstained by a single persecution inflicted by the legislators of Pennsylvania; they discovered their reverence for religion, and their conviction of its sanctity, by permitting, that for his religious creed, every man should be accountable only to his conscience, and to his God.

Since it is the province of the historian to record events for the instruction of posterity, he must occasionally enter into details, which are more immediately intended for a distant age. Contemplating the possibility, rather than indulging the expectation, that this work may be consulted in another generation, a sketch of the comparative strength of the religious sects in Bristol, at the present period, is introduced, as an appropriate conclusion to the history of its ancient religious structures.

The members of the church may be contemplated as forming two distinct divisions, presenting, to say the least, *the appearance* of a schism within the church itself. By those who think that uni-

formity in religious opinions is desirable, this may be considered an inconvenience; but the philosopher will discover here the operation of causes, the effect of which will be most friendly to the best interests of morality, and a demonstrative proof of the absurdity of attempting to limit the decisions of mind, by the authority of the statute law.

The first class of the members of the established religion, may be described, as endeavouring to combine the decisions of christian philosophy, with the doctrine of the articles. The individuals of the other class profess a more unreserved reverence for the doctrines, as contained in the *language* of the articles, combined with a more rigid system of morality. In point of numbers, it is difficult to determine, which of these classes, at present, possesses the majority in Bristol; but the appearance of an increase is in favour of that last mentioned.

Of the dissenters, the Methodists who acknowledge Mr. Wesley as their founder, are by far the most numerous; and the next in point of numbers, are the methodists of Mr. Whitfield. The Baptists support an academy in Bristol, for the education of young men designed for the ministry among them; their number is consider-

able, and generally supposed to be increasing. The Independents, in number, are to be placed next to the Baptists. The society of Friends will probably rank next in the scale of numbers; except it be supposed, that in this scale they should hold an equal line with the professors of Unitarianism. The Catholics are, comparatively, now few in number; and the followers of Emanuel Swedenbourg, considered as a religious society, have become extinct.

It will scarcely admit of a doubt, that different religious sects present those various motives for the performance of the moral duties, which are best calculated to influence the human mind, under the different modifications, which circumstances and education produce; and are thus of essential service in promoting the interests of virtue and happiness. Let them forget their little distinctions in the cultivation of the mild spirit of christian philanthropy, they will "blend with friendly union" into a perfect whole; and the object of the association will be, the extermination of immorality and infelicity.

CONTENTS

OF

CHAPTER THE THIRD.

Monastery of St. Augustine—Biographic Sketch of its Founder Fitzharding—Extent of the Monastery, its Charters and Benefactions—College-Green; its Burying-Ground a Sanctuary—Tombs of the Berkeleys—Biographic Notice of Lord Robert Berkeley, Thomas, Maurice, &c.—Number of the Members of the Monastery—Its Abbots—Biographic Notice of Snow—Asch—Newland, and Elliot—Bishopric—Cathedral—Description of its Monuments and Copies of Inscriptions—Bishops—Notices of Bush—Fletcher—Westfield—Howell—Lake—Trelawney—Secker—Butler—Conybeare, and Newton—Deanery—Revenues—Warburton—Charities of the Foundation.

THE ASTOR LIBRARY
NY



A VIEW of the CATHEDRAL, seen from the PALACE GARDEN,
Bristol.

CHAPTER THE THIRD.

THE Cathedral of Bristol is dedicated to the holy and undivided Trinity; and is the remains of an abbey or monastery of considerable splendour, which was dedicated to St. Augustine. This monastery, founded and endowed by one of the ancestors of the noble family of Berkeley, ranks many of that illustrious house among its benefactors. It was also denominated the monastery of the black regular canons of the order of Saint Victor, who are mentioned by Leland as the black canons of Saint Augustine without the city walls.*

The erection of the monastery was begun in 1140, and was finished and dedicated in 1148, as we are informed by the inscription on the tomb of its founder, Robert Fitz-harding, who is buried

* Leland's Itinerary, Vol. V.

in this cathedral, and has a monument in the chapel of the Elder Lady, adjoining the north aisle. This monument is surrounded with iron rails, and near it is a plain marble table bearing the following inscription:

The Monument of
ROBERT FITZ-HARDING,
Lord of BERKELEY, descended from
the Kings of *Denmark;* and Eva his
Wife, by whom he had five Sons and
two Daughters: MAURICE, his eldest
Son, was the first of this Family that
took the Name of BERKELEY: This
ROBERT FITZHARDING laid the
Foundation of this Church, and Mo-
nastery of St. Augustine in the Year
1140, the fifth of King Stephen; dedi-
cated and Endowed it in 1148. He
died in the year 1170, in the 17th of
King Henry the Second.
This Monument was Repaired
A.D. 1742.
From the said
ROBERT FITZHARDING, Lord of
BERKELEY; AUGUSTUS the present
Earl, is the two and twentieth
in Descent.

Historians are not agreed in many particulars which have been recorded of the founder of this monastery. Some historians represent him as a citizen of Bristol of very considerable wealth; they

add, that he resided in Baldwin-Street, and was a merchant of great enterprise and success. He is generally represented as a younger son or grandson of the King of Denmark; and he is thus characterized in the inscription over the abbey gateway, which calls him *filii regis Daciæ*, a son or descendant of a King of Denmark. Leland says, that he derived his origin from the royal race of the kingdom of Denmark, that he resided in Bristol in the year 1069, and was afterwards created Lord of Berkeley.* In a pedigree in Berkeley castle, he is mentioned as descended from the royal line of the King of Denmark; and it is added, that having accompanied William the First from Normandy, he was present at the battle of Hastings. As these pedigrees cannot refer to the founder of the monastery, they probably relate to an ancestor, and the following account from an ancient pedigree preserved in the British Museum, and given by Mr. Barrett, may be admitted as genuine: "Hardinge Dane, inhabitant and mayor of Bristol, (to whom Maud the Empress, gave the castle, town, and barony of Berkeley) was of the

* Leland's Itinerary, Vol. VI. Camden says, "he was of the blood royal of Denmark, an alderman of Bristol, and was so great with King Henry, that by his favour, Maurice his son married the daughter of the Lord de Barkley, from whence his posterity, who flourished in great state, are to this day called Barons of Barkley." Gibson's Camden, p. 74.

line of the King of Denmark, and of great wealth and possessions in both counties of Glocester and Somerset: he married Lyvida, a noble woman, and had by her issue three sons and two daughters; his eldest son was Robert Fitzharding, first Lord of Berkeley, by gift of Henry the Second."* In the season of youthful ardour, before the simplicity of nature is contaminated by the artificial distinctions of wordly policy, Robert Fitzharding became the friend of Henry, the son of the Empress Maud: this friendship, which was first formed at the school of Mathews in Bristol,† continued uninterrupted through the lives of each, and formed the basis of the fortunes of the illustrious house of Berkeley. One of the first acts of Henry the Second was to confer the honour of knighthood upon the friend of his youth, and soon after he made him heir to the estate of Roger, Lord of Berkeley and Dursley, which had been confiscated, because that nobleman had espoused the party of Stephen, in opposition to the claims of the Empress Maud, in behalf of her son. After having enjoyed all the favours royal friendship could bestow, he formed the resolution of renouncing the honours and pleasures of the world, and was determined to seek happiness in the shade of retirement, from

* Barrett's History, page 240. † Baker's Chronicle.

peaceful contemplation, and the regular discharge of the duties of piety. In compliance with this resolution, he became a canon of the monastery he himself had founded; and in this retreat, having attained the 75th year of his age, he died in 1170.

It is by no means easy to determine the extent of the building of which Fitzharding was the founder. The present cathedral is represented to have been merely the church of the monastery; while the monastery itself is supposed to have extended on the west as far as the arched gateway, which at present forms the entrance to the Lower-Green. The inscription over the arch is now scarcely legible, but it originally stood thus, "Rex Henricus secundus, et Dominus Robertus filius Hardingi, filii Regis Daciæ, hujus monasterii primi fundatores extiterunt." "Henry the Second, and Lord Robert, the son of Harding, a descendant of the King of Denmark, were the founders of this monastery;" and it must be granted that this inscription seems to justify the conclusion, that this gateway was anciently the principal entrance to the monastery.

It is acknowledged that this extent of the monastery is supported by conjectural reasoning or traditionary report, rather than by historical testimony. Some antiquarians, therefore, naturally dissatisfied with a conclusion drawn from such

premises, contend that the monastery always was an unfinished structure. In proof of this assertion, they urge that the cathedral and buildings connected with it bear evident marks of the style of different periods, and that these parts are consequently the production of different ages. This diversity of style, however, is easily accounted for by recurring to the known conduct of the founders of churches, and other ecclesiastical structures, who were accustomed to design a plan of considerable extent, to commence the building on the east side, and to finish a part sufficient for the performance of religious worship, and then to repose themselves, till leisure, or perhaps more flourishing finances, should favour the completion of the original plan.* As it sometimes happened that these never arrived, the execution of their design, in its utmost extent, was frequently committed to the piety of their successors.

The style of architecture, in the different parts of the present cathedral, are well discriminated in the following account from the pen of Bishop

* Bentham's History of the Cathedral church of Ely. See also the valuable Treatise of Dr. Milner on the Ecclesiastical Architecture of England during the middle ages; and an excellent work entitled "Essays on Gothic Architecture," published by Taylor, and selected from the writings of Warton, Bentham, Grose, and Milner.

THE ASTOR LIBRARY
NY



Saxon Gateway.

College Green.

Published by Jnº Agg Broadmead, Bristol. Octr 20th 1806

Littleton, of the Society of Antiquarians. "The lower parts of the chapter-house walls, together with the door-way and columns at the entrance of the chapter-house, may be pronounced to be of the age of Stephen, or rather prior to his reign, being fine Saxon architecture. The inside walls of the chapter-house have round ornamental arches, intersecting each other like those in St. Nicholas chancel, Warwick, which was part of the old Saxon nunnery church. The cathedral appears to be the same style of building throughout, and in no part older than Edward the First's time, though some writers suppose the present fabric was begun in King Stephen's time; but not a single arch, pillar, or window, agrees with the mode which prevailed at that time. The great gateway leading into the College-Green is round-arched, with mouldings richly ornamented in the Saxon taste."* From this account it appears probable that the chapter-house and the arched gateway, are all the present remains of the ancient monastery; the extent of which it may be difficult to ascertain, though it is certain that the extent was considerable, probably equal to that which is assigned to it by conjecture and tradition.

* From a manuscript in the library of the Society of Antiquarians, preserved by Mr. Barrett.

It is a well established fact, that the church of the monastery was entirely rebuilt in the commencement of the fourteenth century; thus the conjecture of Littleton that the style of the architecture was the same as that which prevailed in the time of Edward I. is confirmed by historical testimony. The rebuilding of the church was begun about the year 1311, as appears from a grant of the Bishop of Worcester, which appropriates the church of Wotton to the members of the monastery, as a remuneration for the expence they had incurred in rebuilding their church. Abbot Knowles, who died in 1332, has obtained the honour of being a very active promoter of the plan of rebuilding the church; and Maurice the fourth of that name, lord of Berkeley, was distinguished by his liberal contributions towards carrying the plan into execution, which was completed in 1363. If it be supposed that the duration of this period appears more appropriate for the completion of the original plan of the monastery than the erection of the church, it will follow that the monastery of St. Augustine continued an imperfect structure till the latter end of the reign of Edward III.

William of Worcester mentions an *old* church, eighty steps in length, among the dimensions he has given of the monastery. It has before been

remarked that his survey was taken in 1480; if therefore it be imagined that the church, which is now the cathedral, was begun by Abbot Knowles, and finished by Maurice Lord Berkeley in the preceding century, this old church probably constituted a part of the monastery, and perhaps was situated to the west of the present cathedral.

The following are the dimensions Worcester has given of this structure. "The choir is in length sixty-four steps, and the breadth including the side aisles is fifty. The house of the friars is twenty-six steps long and sixteen broad. The *old church* is eighty steps in length, and sixty-four in breadth. The chapter-house is fifty-six steps by sixteen."* He subjoins to these the dimensions of the chapel of St. Mary, being thirteen yards by nine and a half, the entrance to which is from the south aisle. This chapel is now used as a vestry for the use of the members of the choir. It was built by one of the family of Berkeley, and is sometimes denominated the chapel of the Berkeleys; at present there are no appearances of any tombs in this chapel, and that it ever contained any is by no means certain.

* Itin. de Wor. page 283 and 289.

In addition to the endowment of Fitzharding and his descendants of the family of Berkeley, the monastery of St. Augustine received very liberal benefactions from several other illustrious characters, and in particular from Henry II. The partiality of this monarch for Bristol, no doubt arose from the association of its different scenes, with his earliest and purest pleasures. It is probable that those dedicated to the monastery, were the favorite haunts of the future monarch, and the recollection of scenes where his "careless childhood strayed" unoppressed by the cares of greatness, prompted the execution of the charter of privileges and benefactions, which he granted to the monastery of St. Augustine, while Duke of Normandy and Earl of Anjou. In this charter he expresses the pleasure he had received from his early youth in promoting the interest of the monastery, by affording it his protection and enriching it by his benefactions. This charter was afterwards confirmed by John, and some additional privileges and benefactions were conferred upon the monastery by that monarch. These charters and all preceding charters and grants were afterwards confirmed by a charter from Edward II. Among the other benefactions to the monastery are few, which would now excite any degree of interest if given in detail, and the extent of them may be easily ascertained from the

THE ASTOR LIBRARY
NY



G. Holmes, del.t

J. Storer, sculp.t

View of the Cathedral and College Green.

revenues of the monastery at the period of the dissolution.

College-Green appears to have been the place of burial belonging to the monastery of St. Augustine, and to the House of the Gaunts, now the Mayor's chapel. This burying-ground was originally of considerable extent. It is described by Worcester as bounded on one side "by a lane, called Frog-lane, and containing in this direction from the monastery two hundred and forty steps. Its greatest length was three hundred and sixty steps, and from the Gaunts' House to the monastery, it contained one hundred and eighty steps."* Like church-yards and other consecrated ground in popish countries, this was a sanctuary; and when the reputed sanctity of these places inspired the ruthless soldier with compassion, or bade the greedy sword of carnage spare a prostrate victim, they were not destitute of their use, because they evidently had a tendency to mingle mercy with the ferocious barbarism of the age: but if they multiplied crimes by providing a facility of avoiding punishment, they were unquestionably evils of the first magnitude; since there can be little doubt that cases exist in which

* Itin. de Wor. page 188.

the infliction of justice upon a violator of the laws, is an act of mercy to the community.*

The cathedral of Bristol contains several tombs erected to the memory of different individuals of the noble family of Berkeley. These were generally great benefactors to the establishment, and on this account are entitled to notice in the history of the monastery of St. Augustine, and moreover, biographic sketches of these, will be peculiarly acceptable to those who are accustomed to visit the tombs of the great, that they might justly appreciate the value of hereditary honours.

Robert Lord of Berkeley, son of Maurice, and grandson of Fitzharding, the founder of the monastery, is buried in the south aisle of the cathedral in the habit of an ecclesiastic; to which, from the superstition of the times, he considered were attached the splendid rewards of peculiar sanctity. This nobleman was a liberal benefactor to the monastery, and also built an hospital at Brightbow in Bedminster, dedicated to St. Catherine; even the ruins of which have long since been removed. He distinguished himself in the ever memorable struggle between the

* Dum sceleratis parcunt, bonos omnes perditum eunt.—SALLUST.

barons and their sovereign, which terminated in the signature of Magna Charta. Lord Berkeley is also said to have advised the invitation of Lewis, the son of the French king, and thus, by listening to the dictates of a narrow and misguided policy, incurred the hazard of exchanging a native tyrant, for a foreign despot. Lord Robert Berkeley died in 1220, in the reign of Henry III. Thomas, his brother, succeeded to his honours and fortunes. Of him the historians of the monastery have recorded several benefactions to the establishment, and they consequently celebrate his piety and benevolence in the highest strains of panegyric. In addition to his benefactions to the monastery, he evinced the benevolence of his disposition by increasing the endowments of St. Catherine's hospital, which his brother Lord Robert had founded at Brightbow, in Bedminster. Some part of his conduct, concerning which historians have been silent, gave offence to the pusillanimous Henry III. and it was therefore intimated to him to be the royal pleasure that he should enter into the service of the Knights Templars; in which service he died in honourable exile, but was buried in the south aisle of the monastery church of St. Augustine.

A second Maurice was the successor to the hereditary honours of the house of Berkeley. Of

his talent in the cabinet or ability in the field history is altogether silent. He was buried in the north aisle of the monastery church, and left the merits of his ancestors to preserve his name from oblivion.

To his son and successor Thomas, nature appears to have been more indulgent, and history more liberal. Fame reports that his military talents were of the first rank, and he is said to have sustained a principal part, in the martial achievements of the heroic reign of the first Edward. After an illustrious career of splendid exploits, he was taken prisoner at the battle of Bannoch Burrough. He died in the 76th year of his age, and was buried in the south aisle of the monastery church in 1321.

At the entrance to the south aisle of the cathedral is a small chapel, built by Maurice, the sixth of this name, Lord of Berkeley. This chapel is denominated the chapel of the lady, to distinguish it from the chapel on the north, containing the tomb of Fitzharding, which is denominated the chapel of the elder lady. The chapel of the lady was intended to be the burial place of its founder, but he died at Calais, and was buried there in 1523.

The last of this family who was buried in the monastery church was Thomas, the fifth of that name, Lord of Berkeley, brother and heir to Maurice the founder of the lady's chapel. Of the biography of this nobleman no circumstances have been recorded to excite, or gratify curiosity. It is said that he was first buried in the parish church of Mangotsfield, and afterwards removed in order to be interred in the grave of Lord Maurice, who has before been mentioned for his liberal contributions towards rebuilding the church of the monastery. He was buried under the arch between the south aisle and the chapel of the elder lady. The tomb of Fitzharding is erected over this grave, but Fitzharding is said to be buried nearly under the organ at the entrance to the choir. His grave-stone, however, is nearly opposite the stone pulpit adjoining the pew erected for the use of the corporation.

The abbey of St. Augustine amply endowed by the liberality of these several members of this ancient family, thus privileged by the charters of monarchs, and enriched by the liberal benefactions of the noble and the wealthy, was justly entitled to rank among the richest abbies in the kingdom. The whole establishment originally consisted of an

abbot, a prior, sub-prior, and fourteen friars, or canons regular, professing the rule of St. Augustine of the order of St. Victor. This at least was the number in 1353, but it is probable that the number admitted of variation, and that it was increased or diminished in proportion to the comparative wealth of the monastery.

The internal history of this, as of other monasteries, presents a record of petty contentions, not only disgraceful to the professors of a religion the spirit of which is truly pacific, but dishonourable to humanity. At the successive visitations of the several Bishops of Worcester, within whose diocese the monastery of St. Augustine, and the other religious structures of Bristol were originally included, it was generally found necessary to adopt several regulations, for the correction of the various disorders in the monastery. When the new laws had removed the ancient evils, these were succeeded by others, in some degree different, but all of which candour would bid us hope had their origin in that species of depravity, which has its seat in the head, rather than the heart. It must be acknowledged that the source of most of these evils, existed in the nature of these establishments, which contained no objects to rouse the generous

feelings, or to exercise the benevolent or amiable affections, and in which the most exalted virtue was little more than sordid selfishness.

This abbey enjoyed a succession of twenty-five abbots, of whom the first was Richard; who was instituted in this dignity in 1148. Of the biography of this ecclesiastic no particulars are recorded, and therefore all that remains to be told of him is, that he governed the abbey of St. Augustine thirty-eight years.

Of the abbots the following are the few who have any claim to historic notice; the names of the others with the dates of their institution may be seen in the note.* John Snow, elected abbot

* *Abbots of St. Augustine.*——Richard, 1148. Philip, 1186. John, 1196. Joseph, or John, 1215. David, 1216. William de Bradestone, 1234. William Long, a monk of Kainsham, 1242. Richard de Malmsbury, 1264. John de Marina, 1276. Hugh of Dedingdon, 1287. James Barry, 1294. Edmund Knowles, or de Knolle, 1306. John Snow, 1332. Ralph Asch, 1341. William Cook, 1353; the cross with a skull over it, near the door of the cathedral, covers the grave of this abbot, who died in 1366. Henry Shellingford, 1366. John Cerny, 1388. John Daubeny, 1393. Walter Newbury, 1428. William Hunt, 1463. John Newland, 1481. Robert Elliot, 1515. John Somerset, 1526. William Burton, 1534. Morgan Guilliam, 1537. The monastery was dissolved in 1539.

in 1332, was the first president of this abbey summoned to attend a parliament. In the same year as that of his election, he was present at a parliament holden at Westminster, in the reign of Edward III. and died on the 12th of July, 1341. His successor Ralph Asch, in the genuine spirit of the legislators of his age, petitioned to be excused from the necessity of attending parliament, because it was productive of intolerable burdens to the revenues of the house, over which he presided. His petition was granted in 1341. Petitions similar to this were by no means uncommon in the early periods of the history of parliaments. The sum allowed to the knights and representatives appeared to some boroughs so considerable, that representation was complained of as a grievance rather than desired as a privilege; and it is somewhat remarkable that from 33d Edward III. uniformly through the five succeeding reigns, the sheriff of Lancashire returned, that the county was incapable of sending representatives to parliament "propter eorum debilitatem et paupertatem,"* or in consequence of their weakness and indigence.

* The form of the return made by the sheriff is given by Christian in his notes to Blackstone. "Sunt aliquæ civitates, seu burgi infra commitatum Lancastriæ, de quibus aliqui cives, vel burgenses ad dictum parliamentum venire debent, seu solent; nec possunt propter eorum debilitatem et paupertatem." Blackstone, Vol. I.

In 1481 John Newland was advanced to the dignity of abbot of St. Augustine. He is sometimes styled Abbot Nail-heart, probably from his arms or rather crest, which was a heart pierced. This abbot was considered by his contemporaries as a prodigy for his intellectual ability and extensive acquisitions: and according to the custom of the age in which he flourished, when all the learning of the times was engrossed by ecclesiastics, this abbot was frequently employed by Henry VII. in a diplomatic character. His skill as a politician is said to have given perfect satisfaction to his royal master; for historians record of him that he uniformly conducted the several negociations, with which he was entrusted, to a prosperous issue. Of his talents as a man of letters he left a specimen, in the history of the monastery over which he presided, in which production are also included memoirs of the family of Berkeley. This history is said, by Mr. Barrett, to be still extant among the archives of Berkeley castle.* Having governed the abbey with distinguished reputation during the period of thirty-four years, Abbot Newland died in 1515.†

This abbot and his successor Richard Elliot have

* Barrett's History, p. 268. † Wood's Athenæ Oxon. vol. I.

been highly panegyrised by the members of the monastery for their pious care in repairing and beautifying the building. From the merit of good actions it is always ungenerous to detract, and unbecoming in an historian to insinuate the possibility of motives unworthy the transactions, it is his province to record. It can, however, be no disparagement to the memory of these abbots to suppose, that they acted with some reference to that immortality, which is conferred by posthumous fame, and lived as in the view of future generations. As a confirmation of this conjecture it may be observed, that the cathedral still retains the initials R. E. in several places, and that the statues of the abbots Newland and Elliot, are among those which still adorn the abbey gateway."*

The last abbot† of St. Augustine was Morgan Guilliam, who was instituted in the dignity in 1537. Two years afterwards he surrendered the monastery, with its wealth and revenues, to the persons authorized for this purpose by Henry VIII.

* These statues are on the south side together with a virgin and child, the other on this side, is unknown. On the north side are Henry II. and Fitzharding; the other figures are now unknown.

† Willis's History of Abbies, vol. I.

He obtained for himself a pension of eighty pounds per annum, and an annual allowance of between seven and eight pounds for the monks, who chose to continue in the observance of their monastic vows.

The memory of this abbot has been loaded with charges of the grossest immoralities. Fuller and Speed represent him as keeping no less than six concubines. These, however, and similar representations of the manners of the monks of this period, ought to be received with great caution; since it is an indubitable fact, that their immoralities were highly exaggerated, that the policy which had determined to abolish monasteries, for the express purpose of enriching itself with their wealth and revenues, might derive some sanction from the vices of ecclesiastics.

In 1539, by statute of Henry VIII. the abbey of St. Augustine, as well as the other abbeys of the kingdom, became the property of the crown. The annual revenue of this abbey at the period of the dissolution, is stated by Dugdale to have amounted to £670. 13*s.* 11*d.* and by Speed to have been £767. 15*s.* 3*d.* The medium of these sums is £719. 4*s.* 7*d.* which was probably the

amount of its annual income, at the period it ceased to exist as a monastery.

It has already been stated as probable, that at the time of which we are writing, the monastery extended from the tower, which is supposed to have been the centre of the building, to the abbey gate-way. The west part of the edifice is supposed to have been destroyed for the sake of the lead, and the other materials of which it was composed; and it is probable that the remaining part would have been consigned to destruction, for similar reasons, if this had not been prevented by an order from the king to erect this dissolved monastery into a bishopric. This order was issued in 1543, and the monastery church was fixed upon for the cathedral. The establishment was to consist of a bishop, a dean, six prebends, six minor canons, a deacon, a sub-deacon, a præcentor, six choristers, and an organist. Such was the number when the establishment was constituted a bishop's see; nor is it recorded that the number has been subsequently altered, either by regal or ecclesiastical authority.

The mutilations which the cathedral of Bristol has undergone, are not entirely to be referred to

the era of the dissolution of monasteries, since this structure suffered very considerably during the period of the civil commotions. The ruthless soldiers discovered their barbarism by violating the sacred tombs of the dead, and by offering every indignity, which they supposed would be considered a profanation of the places, which the piety of their ancestors had consecrated to religion. It is said that they uncovered the palace of the bishop for the sake of the lead on its roof; and that their inhumanity proceeded so far as to lay open the very room in which the bishop's lady was confined in child-bed. Such a lamentable tendency has the violence of civil factions to render the mind insensible to every finer feeling, and stop up every avenue to sensibility.

The palace after the expulsion of the bishop is said to have been converted into a malt-house, and to have been used as such for several years. The estates of the bishopric were sold, and the funds produced from their sale, were appropriated to the supply of the exigencies of revolutionary finances.*

* The amount of this sale was £8390 7*s*. 9½*d*. The most curious entry is "The Gate-house, in Bristol, sold March 6th, 1649, to John Birch, for £18. 13*s*. 4*d*." A small part of the land then sold, and included in the above amount, belonged to the bishopric of Gloucester.

From this review of the principal events in the history of the monastery of St. Augustine, and of remarkable circumstancs connected with Bristol cathedral, we shall proceed to a description of it in its present state, including an account of those monuments and inscriptions most worthy of notice, which record the names or the virtues of those, who are here consigned to the graves of their fathers. To a mind properly tuned for solemn feeling, few gratifications will bear a comparison with the sensations, excited by the contemplation of these mournful memorials of affection to departed worth. The levity which disregards these scenes, and the false sensibility which turns from them, are equally unworthy the mingled feelings of sympathetic regret, awe, and veneration, with which they seldom fail to inspire the soul of sensibility.

The descent from the College-Green to the transept, or great cross-aisle of the cathedral, is by eight steps. On the left are steps conducting to the elder lady's chapel, in which is the tomb of Fitzharding, the founder of the monastery, the inscription on which has been already transcribed.* Between the steps of this chapel and

*Vol. II. page 104.

the entrance, a cross and skull cover the grave of abbot Cook, who died in 1366.

On the right against the west wall are several elegant monuments, of which the first peculiarly worthy of notice, is one raised to the memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Draper, the Eliza of Sterne. Its form is that of a pointed or gothic arch, within which are two figures, which may be pronounced to be good specimens of the productions of genius in this department of art, for they are in the best manner of their artist Bacon, and will be a lasting testimony of his ability. The figure on the left represents Genius, that on the right Benevolence, which points to the following inscription upon the pedestal.

Sacred
to the memory
of
Mrs. ELIZABETH DRAPER,
in whom
Genius and Benevolence
were united;
She died
August 3d, 1788,
Aged 35.

In addition to Mrs. Draper's, several monuments against the west wall deserve observation for their general simplicity of design, and neatness of execution. Many of their inscriptions should be transferred to these pages, but for a fear of exceeding the limits proposed for this work; since it is presumed that few could be read without emotion by feeling minds, as testimonies of superior excellence, of private worth, or of conjugal affection.

On one of the columns on the right of the extremity of the centre aisle, but facing the transept, an elegant, and much admired monument has been recently erected, to the memory of Anthony Augustus Henderson. The following description of this monument, and translation of its inscriptions, are by the *late* Anthony Henderson, Esq. M. P. who died soon after its erection.*

"The upper compartment of the monument represents a parent kneeling at the tomb of his son.

* "When I meet with the grief of parents upon a tomb-stone, my heart melts with compassion: when I see the tomb of the parents themselves, I consider the vanity of grieving for those whom we must quickly follow."—ADDISON.

On the tomb is a Latin inscription, in English as follows:

Sacred to the Memory of
A. A. Henderson,
A most amiable Youth,
A most affectionate Son.

The countenance of the parent is intended to express pious resignation, under the severe affliction of the death of his son, which he derives from that passage of the Gospel of St. John, (the Greek version of which he holds in his hand, and is supposed to have been reading) where Christ says, "The dead that are in their graves shall hear my voice, and shall come forth, *they that have done Good unto the Resurrection of Life.*" The words in italics are inscribed in the Greek language.

On the tablet in the compartment below is a Latin inscription which, in English is, in substance, as follows:

In a Grave close to the Altar of this Cathedral
The mortal part of Anthony Augustus,
Son of Anthony Henderson, Esq. M. P.
And Sophia his Wife, is deposited;
That his Immortal Part now lives in Heaven
Is the firm belief of his Parents.
He died in the year of our Lord 1807, in the 17th year of his age.

He was free from vice, of great fortitude, and exceedingly attached to his Parents;
He was distinguished for his understanding, gentleness of manners, modesty, and kindness.
What limit can there be to grief for the loss of so dear a Son?
The hope which religion affords, that they may also be counted worthy,
Through the Grace of an almighty and merciful God,
To be numbered hereafter amongst the blessed in Heaven,
There to enjoy for ever the company of their Son,
Is to his Parents the sweet soother of their sorrows.

In the original these inscriptions run thus. On the tomb at which the parent kneels:

I I
ANT. AUG.
HENDERSON
S E
JUVEN. MAX.
DILECTI,
FILII
PIISSIMI.
S. M.

On the tablet in the compartment:

In sepulchro apud altare hujusce ecclesiæ,
Quicquid fuit mortale Antonii Augusti
filii Antonii Henderson Arm. ord. Senat.
Et Sophiæ conjugis depositum est;
Quicquid vero immortale in cœlis vigere
Persuasissimum est suis.
Obiit Anno Domini MDCCCVII:
Ætatis suæ, XVII.
Sceleris erat purus, animi fortis, parentum studiosissimus

Ingenio, morum suavitate, pudore, et benignitate eximia.
Desiderio tam cari filii quis sit modus?
Spes illa, religione nata, se quoque dignos haberi
DEI OPTIMI MAXIMI gratia
Inter cœlicolas tandem numerari beatos,
Filiique necessitudine in æternum frui
Parentibus doloris dulce lenimen.

Near the termination of the transept an elegant mural monument is erected to the memory of Catharine, wife of James Vernon, Jun. of Lincoln's Inn, Esq. who died June 3d, 1794, aged 19. The inscription is marked by peculiar felicity of expression, as well as elegance of sentiment, and on these accounts deserves to be transcribed:

Formed by Nature
To attract observation and to invite respect,
Lovely in her person, graceful in her manners,
Amiable in her disposition,
Happy to receive pleasure, and more happy to impart it;
Every one was conscious of her merits
But herself;
The disease to which she fell a victim
Added lustre to the virtues of her mind;
And the submissive piety which prepared her way
To Heaven
Taught the duty of resignation
To her afflicted husband.

The approach to the side aisles from the transept excites an impression of peculiar grandeur, pro-

duced by the loftiness of the roof. This is said to be the only cathedral in the kingdom, of which the centre and side aisles are of equal height.

On a pillar at the entrance of the south aisle a mural monument bears an elegant Latin inscription, of which the following is a translation:

JACOB ELTON,
The second son of Abraham Elton, Bart.
From his earliest years
He was trained to nautical science and practice;
And even while a youth obtained the honourable rank
Of Captain in the British Navy.
Before he had completed the thirty-second year of his age,
He fell
In a naval engagement against the French,
On the 29th of March, 1745.
His death was premature indeed for his country,
But for himself, glorious.
To the suavity of his manners—his friends,
To his genial and active benevolence—his sailors,
To his magnanimous intrepidity—his death,
Bear the most ample testimony.
His disconsolate widow,
Caroline, daughter and co-heiress of Charles Yate, Esq.
Of Coulthrope, in the County of Gloucester,
Caused this monument to be erected,
As a trifling tribute of unchangeable affection.

In the original thus:—

JACOB ELTON,

Filius natu secundus Abrahami Elton, Bart.
Rebus nauticis
A tenera ætate assuetus,
Et in classe Britannica, etiamnum Adolescens
Navarcha;
Anno tricessimo secundo nondum peracto,
Dum contra Gallos
Prœlio navali dimicâsset,
Properatâ quidem
Sed pulcherrimâ morte
Occubvit
Die Martii 29no. A.D. 1745.
Qualis erat morum suavitas, Amici,
Quæ Humanitas et Benevolentia, nauta
Quam intrepide et fortiter se gessit
Ille Dies
Satis superque testatur.
Leve hoc Amoris sui et desiderii monumentum
Vidua mœstissima
Carolina Filia et cohæres Caroli Yate
De Coulthrope in agro Glocestriæ
Poni curavit.

Under this monument is a flat stone bearing an inscription, which will be read with peculiar interest by every admirer of the letters of the amiable Cowper:

Dame Harriet Hesketh,
Eldest daughter of
Ashley Cowper, Esq.
Clerk of the Parliaments,
Widow of
Sir Thomas Hesketh, Bart.
Of Rufford Hall, in Lancashire.
Born July, 1733,
Died 15th January, 1807.

The chapel on the right at the entrance to the south aisle, is denominated the chapel of our Lady, and was erected by Maurice, the sixth of that name Lord of Berkeley.* This chapel contains three ancient tombs, on one of which is the following inscription: "In memory of Sir Richard Newton Cradock, of Barr's Court, in the county of Gloucester, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Common Pleas, who died December the 13th, 1444; and with his lady lies interred beneath this monument, which was defaced by the civil wars, and repaired by Mrs. Archer, sister to the late Sir Michael Newton, of Barr's Court, 1748."

On a handsome tomb of alabaster and freestone against the south wall of the chapel is this inscription: "Here lies Sir Henry Newton, of Barr's Court, in the county of Gloucester, Kt. who married Katharine, the daughter of Sir Thomas Paston, of Norfolk, Kt. by whom he had two sons and four daughters; and when he had lived seventy years religiously towards God, loyally towards his prince, and virtuously towards men, ended his life in the year of grace, 1599."

* Vol. II. page 116.

Over the other tomb in the chapel are two tablets bearing the following inscriptions:

First Tablet.

Here lyeth the body of Sir John Newton, Bart. son of Sir Theodore Newton, Kt. and his Lady Grace, daughter of —— Stone, Esq. who died without issue 1661.

Second Tablet.

He was a man of great courage and the greatest loyalty to his prince, an honour to his country, a credit and noble ornament to his name and family.

Near the tomb of Lord Thomas Berkeley, the first of that name, in this aisle, is an elegant tribute of paternal affection, which it would be unjust to omit. It is inscribed to the memory of Henry Robinson, Esq. who died September 5th, 1791; and Margaret Robinson, who died October 23d, 1790.

Not far distant from hence
Are deposited the remains
Of a beloved brother and sister.
This little stone
Is erected by their surviving brother,

Not as an eulogy of *their* virtues,
But to direct the stranger to that spot
Where every virtue
Lies concealed.

At a little distance from this tablet, a neat mural monument is consecrated to the memory of the Rev. Samuel Love, A. M. Fellow of Baliol College, Oxford, and one of the minor canons of this cathedral, who died October 18th, 1773, aged 29. He is represented to have possessed considerable talents, which were joined to great moral worth and unaffected piety. The lines upon his monument are from the pen of Mrs. H. More, and are entitled to high commendation for their simplicity and genuine pathos.

When worthless grandeur decks the embellish'd urn,
No poignant grief attends the sable bier,
But when distinguished excellence we mourn,
Deep is the sorrow, genuine the tear.

Stranger! shouldst thou approach this awful shrine,
The merits of the honour'd dead to seek,
The friend, the son, the christian, the divine,
Let those who knew him, those who lov'd him, speak.

Oh! let them in some pause from anguish, say,
What zeal inspir'd, what faith enlarg'd his breast,
How soon th' unfetter'd spirit wing'd its way
From Earth to Heaven, from blessing to be blest.

This monument is erected
by some intimate friends of the deceas'd
as a testimony
of *his* worth and *their* esteem.

Opposite is a neatly executed monument sacred to the memory of Joshua Berkeley, D.D. dean of Tuam, who died at the Hotwells, on the 21st of June, 1807.

The choir is mostly occupied by the remains of bishops of the diocese. Near the entrance from the south aisle, three flat stones cover the graves of bishops Connybeare, Butler, and Bradshaw: the second grave from the entrance being consecrated by the ashes of Dr. Butler.

In the north wall adjoining the altar are the tombs of abbots Knowles and Newbery. The most ancient of these is that nearest the altar, which is erected in an arch over the grave of abbot Knowles, who died in 1332; and may with great probability, be regarded as the builder of the present cathedral. Below is the tomb of abbot Newbery, who died in 1463, and opposite is a similar tomb to the memory of abbot Newland, who died in 1515.

These monuments, consisting of a statue placed

horizontally in the habit of the deceased, seem to have been the next advancement of monumental architecture, from the plain tomb in the form of a stone coffin without any inscription. The history, indeed, of this species of architecture, appears to be as incomplete as the practice is imperfect. It is certainly desirable that monuments should harmonize with the surrounding structure, and possess the properties, either of parts or appendages. In this view the tablet seems the least imperfect; but when monuments assume the appearance of independent and rival productions of architecture, they produce only a transient effect; because their little splendour soon vanishes in the contemplation of the majestic grandeur of the surrounding fabric.

In the south wall near the altar is a splendid monument for the period in which it was erected, to the memory of Sir John Young, Knight, and dame Joan his wife. She died in 1603.

In the chancel was buried Nathaniel Forster, D.D. a name peculiarly dear to piety and sacred literature. His edition of the Hebrew Bible, divested of the massoretic points, which have so long disfigured the sacred text, will be a lasting monument of critical ability and learned investigation, as well

as highly honourable to the literary character of his native country. He was born at Stadscombe, in the parish of Plimstock, Devonshire, of which his father was the minister, in the year 1717. Soon after his birth his father removed to Plymouth, where he initiated his son in the rudiments of a grammatical education, and afterwards sent him to the public grammar school in that town. Young Forster made a rapid progress both under the instructions of his father, and in the seminary into which he was transplanted, of which he became head scholar before he was thirteen years old. In 1713-4 he was removed to Eton, and at the same time entered at Pembroke college, Oxford. His time was chiefly spent at college, in a close application to his studies; by which he deservedly acquired a high character for very considerable erudition, and great critical acumen, possessing a knowledge of the Latin, Greek, and Hebrew languages, equal to that of any man of his time. His earliest friend was Dr. Secker, then bishop of Oxford, by whom he was introduced to Dr. Butler, at that time bishop of Bristol, to whom he became private chaplain. Dr. Butler at his death left him a legacy of 200*l.* and appointed him executor to his will. In the year 1745 he was promoted to a prebendal stall in the cathedral of Bristol; and before the expiration of the same year was presented

by archbishop Secker, to the valuable vicarage of Rochdale, in Lancashire. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1755, made one of the chaplains to his Majesty in 1756, and appointed preacher at the Roll's chapel in 1757. In the year last mentioned he married a lady of great merit, and possessed of a considerable fortune; on which occasion he fixed his residence in Craig's-court, Westminster. He died in that situation, after a short illness, before the end of 1757, in the 41st year of his age. In 1749 he published "A Dissertation upon the account supposed to have been given of Jesus Christ by Josephus; being an attempt to shew that this celebrated passage, some slight corrections only excepted, may reasonably be esteemed genuine." This production is allowed to be ingenious by Mr. Bryant, who has undertaken to defend the passage as it stands; and by bishop Warburton it is pronounced the best piece of criticism, which the age has produced."*

In the north aisle are several monuments which deserve attention, not merely for their general style of execution, but also for their inscriptions, which have been admired for an elegance purely classical. Entering this aisle from the choir, and passing an

* Dr. Aikin's General Biography.

ancient tomb on the right to the memory of Bishop Bush, who died in 1558, a superb mural monument claims immediate notice, bearing a Latin inscription, of which the following is a translation:

Under this monument is interred
THOMAS COSTER, Esq.
Who was equally illustrious
For his private as for his public virtues:
In friendship he was firm and affectionate,
And eminently distinguished by an active benevolence towards man,
And an ardent piety towards God.
His genius was displayed
In the acquisition of various sciences,
But in those of mechanics and metallurgy
He peculiarly excelled.
He obtained wealth by industry,
And honour by unsullied integrity:
Being advanced, without ambition or envy, to the dignity of
Representative
Of the citizens of Bristol in Parliament,
He discharged his duty with undeviating fidelity
For the mutual advantage of his constituents,
And the Empire.
He was born on the 20th of December, 1684,
And died on the 30th of September, 1739,
Deeply lamented and unfeignedly regretted
By all to whom he was known,
Particularly by her, who in gratitude
To the best of parents,
Caused this monument to be erected,
That the memory of his eminent virtues might be lasting,
To excite the emulation and secure the happiness
Of the most distant posterity.

In the original the inscription run thus:

I. S. E.
Thomas Coster, Armiger,
Virtutibus tum privatis
Tum publicis præter cæteros insignis;
Suos studio et amore,
Homines quoscunque benevolentia,
Deum O. M. egregia pietate
Prosequebatur:
Ad variam scientiam
In machinamentis præcipue et metallis
Perspicaci ingenio.
Ad opes industria
Ad honorem probis moribus
Viam munivit.
A. Bristoliensibus
Ad Senatorii ordinis dignitatem
Sine ambitione, sine invidia evectus
Eandem summa fide sustinuit
Suorum civium et totius reipublicæ bono.
Natus Decembris 20, 1684.
Sept. 30, 1739, morte luctuosa abreptus;
Omnibus quibus innotuit,
Sui desiderium reliquit,
Illi vero longe tristissimum
Quæ optimi patris memor
Virtutum ejus (quarum exemplar ut
Posteris quam diutissime prodesset)
Memoriam, hoc marmore posito,
Æternam voluit.*
I. H.

* It may not, perhaps, be improper to remark that the painted glass window above this monument, is said to have been presented to the cathedral by Nell Gwyn, and was, probably, designed as an expiation for immorality.

The following inscription will be read with peculiar feelings as a family record of celibacy and comparative longevity :

Near this place
Are deposited the remains of
Three respectable Sisters,
Daughters of the Rev. James Harcourt, D.D.
Prebendary of this cathedral.
Anna Harcourt, who died May 4th, 1792, aged 72.
Florence Harcourt, who died April 19th, 1794, aged 73.
Sarah Harcourt, who died June 9th, 1801, aged 73.
This tablet
Is gratefully dedicated
To their memory,
By their surviving relations
And successors.
1801.

Opposite this tablet is a stately monument of an ancient style to the memory of Sir Charles Vaughan, who died in 1630. The inscription is in Latin, but contains no information of interest, or instruction of importance.

Near this is a mural tablet bearing the following inscription :

In memory of her renowned ancestors, Richard Towgood, S. T. B. Dean of this church, the grandfather, and Elizabeth his wife ; Richard Towgood, M. A. prebendary, the father, and Elizabeth his wife. Mrs. Elizabeth Towgood, the daughter and last of this family, caused

this monument to be erected, who having inherited the virtues of her forefathers, and exhibited the same illustrious pattern of unaffected piety, undissembled charity, and unsullied integrity, to the 77th year of her age, followed them to the mansion of eternal rest, January 24th, 1767.

Richard Towgood is buried in the north aisle, and from the Latin inscription to his memory we learn, that by the violence of civil faction he was thrown into prison; but, that at the restoration of monarchy he was reinstated in his ecclesiastical promotions. He reached the advanced age of 89, and died in 1683.

Next the tablet inscribed with the names of Towgood is an elegant monument to the memory of William Powell, Esq. one of the patentees of the Theatre-Royal, Covent Garden, who died 3d of July, 1769, aged 33 years. His widow caused this monument to be erected, as well to perpetuate his memory, as her own irretrievable loss of the best of husbands. The following lines are the production of G. Colman, Esq.

Bristol! to worth and genius ever just,
To thee our Powell's dear remains we trust:
Soft as the streams thy sacred springs impart,
The milk of human kindness warmed his heart;
That heart, which every tender feeling knew,
The soil, where pity, love, and friendship grew:

Oh! let a faithful friend with grief sincere
Inscribe his tomb, and drop the heartfelt tear.
Here rest his praise, here found his noblest fame,
All else a bubble, or an empty name.

Opposite are the incomparable lines of the author of Elfrida. Their acknowledged excellence has procured them a notoriety, which might preclude the necessity of a transcription, if the obtrusive idea were not repulsed by the reflection, that these lines contain beauties which no repetition can exhaust.* The monument is inscribed to Mary, the daughter of William Shermon, of Kingston-upon-Hull, Esq. and wife of the Rev. William Mason, who died March 24, 1767, aged 28.

Take, holy Earth! all that my soul holds dear:
Take that best gift, which Heav'n so lately gave:
To Bristol's fount I bore with trembling care
Her faded form: she bowed to taste the wave
And died. Does Youth, does Beauty, read the line?
Does sympathetic fear their breasts alarm?
Speak, dead Maria! breathe a strain divine:
Ev'n from the grave thou shalt have power to charm.
Bid them be chaste, be innocent like thee;
Bid them in Duty's sphere as meekly move;
And if so fair, from vanity as free,
As firm in friendship, and as fond in love.
Tell them, though 'tis an awful thing to die,
('Twas ev'n to thee) yet the dread path once trod,

* Decies repetita placebit.

Heav'n lifts its everlasting portals high,
And bids "the Pure in heart behold their God."

These are the principal inscriptions of the monuments in Bristol Cathedral, with which a fond desire to confer immortality upon the memory of excellence long beheld with pleasure, or contemplated with veneration, has marked the mouldering urn and the perishing tablet. Monumental inscriptions, however, are not destitute of the most important uses. In addition to their affording a gratification to some of the best feelings of the human heart, by prompting it to discover its affection to departed worth; these inscriptions are among the best tests of the literary character of a nation, and possess a greater degree of influence than is generally supposed, over the national morals. These impressive memorials of mortality not only teach "the moralist to die," but have a tendency to awaken his emulation to acquire the virtues delineated upon the sepulchral tablet. They elevate the drooping spirits of the mourner from the contemplation of the various ills to which humanity is subject, and fix his better hopes upon heaven and immortality.

The bishopric of Bristol is the least wealthy ecclesiastical promotion which confers the dignity of a mitre. Its revenue is generally stated to

amount to no more than five or six hundred pounds per annum. In consequence of this comparative indigence, the bishop of Bristol usually holds some valuable benefice in addition to the bishopric, or this see is conferred as a preliminary to an ecclesiastical promotion of equal dignity, with more ample revenues.

The bishopric of Bristol was formed from those of Salisbury, Worcester, and Wells. The county and archdeaconry of Dorset were separated from the bishopric of Salisbury, and conferred upon the bishop of Bristol; to these were united several parishes from Glocestershire, in addition to those of the city of Bristol, which anciently appertained to the diocese of Worcester, and one from the bishopric of Wells. Dr. Heylin states that the number of parishes subject to the jurisdiction of Bristol was 236, of which 64 were impropriated. The number has, perhaps, increased since Dr. Heylin's account was published, and now, probably, amounts to 256, including chapels: of which 221 are in the county and archdeaconry of Dorset, 18 in the county of Gloucester, 16 in the city of Bristol, and one in the county of Somerset.*

* The following notice was printed in the Bristol newspapers the

The bishopric was very considerably impoverished with regard to its revenues, in the reign of Elizabeth. The see was vacant during the term of thirty-two years, and this circumstance necessarily occasioned,

26th July, 1777:

The Lord Bishop of Bristol will confirm (if it shall please God) all who shall be presented to him, or recommended by separate certificates of their friends, by their respective ministers, after morning service at the cathedral on the following days, viz. Those of the parishes of

St. Augustine	B
All Saints'	B
Christ Church	B
Clifton	G
St. Leonard	B
St. Nicholas	B
St. Peter	B
St. Stephen	B
On Monday August 4th.	
St. Ewin	B
St. James	B
St. John	B
St. Mary-Port	B
St. Michael	B
St. Werburgh	B
Westbury	G
On Tuesday Aug. 5th.	
St. George	G
St. Philip	B
St. Mary Redcliff	B
Stapleton	G
Temple	B
St. Thomas	B
On Thursday Aug. 17th.	
Abbots Leigh	S
Almondsbury	G
Aust	G
Alveston	G
Compton Greenfield	G
Elberton	G
Filton	G
Henbury	G
Horfield	G
Littleton	G
Mangotsfield	G
Olveston	G
Stoke Gifford	G
Winterbourn	G
On Saturday Aug. 9th.	
To these are now to be added,	
St. Paul	B

St. Ewin's church was consolidated with Christ church.—The church of St. Leonard was taken down in 1772. See p. 88, 89.

N. B. Those parishes marked B—are in Bristol.
G—in Gloucestershire
S—in Somersetshire.

not only a neglect of its revenues, but presented them an easy prey to the avarice of the courtiers. In addition to this cause of diminution, it appears that some of the early bishops were so completely under the influence of selfish principles, that they hesitated not to alienate the estates of the bishopric, and thus to enrich themselves at the expense of their successors.

To prevent this conduct in future bishops, and to preserve the revenues of bishoprics from every species of encumbrance, they are prohibited by a provisional order issued in the tenth year of the reign of Charles I. from granting the estates upon lives which are not already so granted, and all leases are ordered to be limited to the term of twenty-one years.* This regulation not only tends to preserve the ecclesiastical revenues from diminution, but also provides for their advance in some proportion to the increasing exigences of the times.

Paul Bush was the first bishop of Bristol;† he

* Atkin's History of Gloucestershire.

† The other bishops are, John Holyman, 1554. Richard Cheyney, B. D. 1561. John Bullingham, D. D. 1581. Richard Fletcher, 1583. John Thornborough, 1603. Nicholas Felton, 1617. Rowland Searchfield, 1619. Robert Wright, 1622. George Cook, 1632. Robert Skinner, 1636. Thomas Westfield, 1641. Thomas Howell,

was a native of Somersetshire, last rector or provincial of the Bonnes Hommes at Edington, in Wilts, and chaplain to Henry VIII. This bishop was appointed by letters patent on the 4th of June, in 1542. His name has been the object of a reproach, perhaps justly incurred, for alienating the manor of Leigh, which was considered one of the richest parts of the endowment of the bishopric. On the accession of Mary, fearing ecclesiastical censures for having violated his vow of celibacy, he resigned his bishopric, and retired to live in obscurity on the rectory of Winterbourn. To this bishop the cathedral is indebted for the erection of the stalls of the choir and the episcopal throne. He died October 11th, 1558, in the 68th year of his age, and was buried in the cathedral on the north side of the altar at the entrance to the north aisle. Bishop Bush is said to have possessed some skill in physic, and to have written upon the subject of medicine.*

1645. Gilbert Ironside, 1660. Guy Charlton, 1671. Wm. Goulson, 1678. John Lake, 1684. Jonathan Trelawney, 1685. Gilbert Ironside, 1689. John Hall, 1691. John Robinson, 1710. George Smalridge, 1714. Hugh Boulter, 1719. William Bradshaw, 1724. Charles Cecil, 1733. Thomas Secker, 1734. Thomas Gooch, D. D. 1737. Joseph Butler, 1738. John Conybeare, 1751. John Hume, D. D. 1756. Philip Young, 1758. Thomas Newton, 1761. Lewis Bagot, 1782. Christopher Wilson, 1783. Spencer Madan, 1792. Hen. Reg. Courtney, 1794. Fol. Her, Wal. Cornwall, 1797. George Pelham, 1803. John Luxmore, 1827. Wm. Lort Mansel, 1808.

* Wood's Athen. Oxon. vol. I.

Richard Fletcher was the fifth in succession from bishop Bush, and was appointed bishop of Bristol in 1583. He is said by Harrington to have taken this see on condition of leasing out its estates to courtiers, which he did so extravagantly that he considerably impoverished the revenues of the bishopric.* Bishop Fletcher was appointed to attend the unfortunate Mary Queen of Scots on the scaffold, and with an impertinence of zeal, which can never be too much reprobated, disturbed the dying moments of an unhappy queen, by intrusive solicitations to change her system of religious belief. In the latter part of his life he became the victim of chagrin and discontent, in consequence of having lost the favour of Elizabeth, and died on the 15th of June, 1596. He had been translated to the bishopric of London, and was buried in St. Paul's.

Of the ancestors of bishop Fletcher, whether they were of noble or plebeian origin, little is known and less desired to be remembered.† To

* Harrington's View of the State of the Church.

† It may deserve remark that Giles Fletcher, ambassador to the court of Muscovy in 1588, was brother to the bishop of Bristol.—"Giles Fletcher was the author of a book, intitled "*Of the Russe Commonwealth, or Manner of Government, by the Russe Emperor; with the Manners and Fashions of the People of that Country.*" This scarce and curious book was, for certain political reasons, immediately suppressed; but it was reprinted in 1643, in 12mo. It was also inserted, though somewhat abbreviated, in Hakluyt's Voyages."—Memorabilia Cantabrigiæ. page 109.

ancestry the world, from various causes, must attach importance; but an enlarged view of the circumstances which form the character, should induce it to ascribe honour to an individual from the talents and virtues of his descendants, in the production of which he might have been a cause, rather than from those of his ancestors, which, so far as regards himself, are purely the result of accident. To this honour bishop Fletcher has considerable claims, and when his political conduct, and ecclesiastical dignities are lost together in oblivion, he will be entitled to remembrance as the father of the celebrated dramatist, the colleague of Beaumont. It is remarkable that Fletcher was born ten years before Beaumont, in 1576, and survived him an equal number of years. Fletcher fell a victim to the plague, in the full maturity of his powers, in 1625.*

Thomas Westfield was promoted to the bishopric in 1641. The revenues of the see were detained from him in the tumults of the civil war;† but his learning, piety, and ability at length procured him respect even from the enemies of episcopacy, and by a committee of the parliament, he was reinstated in the temporalities of his prelacy. He enjoyed

* Biographia Dramatica. Vol. I. article Beaumont.

† Walker's Sufferings of the Clergy.

these only during a short period, as he died in 1644, and was buried in the cathedral. Bishop Westfield had acquired great reputation as an eloquent and persuasive preacher.

The successor of bishop Westfield was Thomas Howell, who was nominated by the king in 1644, and consecrated in 1645. Bishop Howell enjoyed his promotion only one year, and died in 1646. He was buried in the cathedral under a plain stone bearing this one word, "serving both for his epitaph and elegy," EXPERGISCAR, "I shall arise." After his death the see was vacant during the period of fourteen years.

John Lake, sometime bishop of Bristol, is distinguished in the history of the reign of James II. as one of the seven bishops who were committed to the Tower, for presenting a petition to his majesty, against publishing in the several churches of their respective dioceses, the king's declaration for granting liberty of conscience. He had been previously translated to the bishopric of Chichester, of which he was deprived on the accession of William III. for refusing the oaths of allegiance, and supremacy to that monarch. In this resolution he persevered till his death, and expressed his approbation of his conduct in his last moments. Bishop Lake died in August, 1689.

During his residence at Tewksbury, Dr. Butler engaged in an inquiry into the grounds of nonconformity, and the result of his inquiries was a determination to join the established church. His father at first endeavoured to divert him from his purpose, but finding him resolved, he wisely permitted him to remove to Oxford, where he was admitted a commoner of Oriel college in 1714. At college he formed a friendship with Mr. Edward Talbot, second son of bishop Talbot, which laid the foundation of his future preferment in the church. He had taken orders soon after his admission at Oxford, and in 1718 was appointed preacher to the Roll's chapel. While he filled this office he published a volume of sermons, which raised him to a high degree of reputation, as an acute and solid reasoner.

About the year 1726, Dr. Talbot, then bishop of Durham, presented Dr. Butler with the very valuable living of Stanhope, on which he resided in complete retirement for seven years. During this period, it is probable, he made considerable progress in his great work, entitled "The Analogy of Religion, natural and revealed, to the Constitution and course of Nature," which he published in 1736. In the same year he had been appointed clerk of the closet to Queen Caroline, and so much was her

majesty pleased with Dr. Butler's conversation, that he was ordered to attend upon her two hours every evening, and from her powerful recommendation of him to the king, he was raised to the episcopal bench in 1738, by promotion to the see of Bristol. To this preferment was added, in 1740, the deanery of St. Paul's. He now resigned his living of Stanhope, and devoted himself to his new duties. He displayed great munificence in his improvements of the episcopal palace at Bristol, on which he expended a greater sum than the revenues of the see amounted to, during the time he held it.* In 1750 Dr. Butler was translated to the rich see

* In the repairs of the bishop's palace, Dr. Butler expended nearly 5000 pounds. In the course of these repairs in 1744, while the workmen were employed in one of the rooms, some plate fell through the floor, which by this accident was found to be so decayed that it was necessary to remove it. When the floor was removed an apartment was discovered under the room, in which were many human bones, and several instruments of iron, supposed to have been instruments of torture. Upon minute examination, an arched passage was discovered in the thickness of the wall, which communicated with this supposed dungeon and an apartment of the palace, which had, probably, been employed as a court for trying those, who were accused of irregularity, or suspected of heresy. Thus, when bigotry had attached an undue importance to speculative opinions, and the civil authority had armed it with power, the dungeon, the rack, and the scaffold were the arguments it uniformly employed to prove the genuineness of its pretensions to infallibility. But this period has passed, and even statesmen have at last learned, that persecution is as impolitic, as it is unjust.

of Durham, but he enjoyed this splendid situation only a short time: for he fell into a declining state of health, and died at Bath, in June 1752. He was buried in Bristol cathedral, under the second stone at the entrance to the choir from the south aisle; and his high character for profound reasoning, for unaffected piety, and for genuine benevolence, will endear his memory, and preserve his reputation to a distant posterity.

Dr. Butler was succeeded in the bishopric of Bristol by John Conybeare, D. D. in 1750. He enjoyed his preferment only five years, and died in July 1755. He was buried in the cathedral in a grave adjoining that of bishop Butler, and a neat marble monument has been erected to his memory, near the altar.

The literary character of Dr. Conybeare is well sustained by four volumes of sermons, which were published after his death, but which have procured for him a distinguishing reputation, as a man of genius, a scholar, and a divine.

Thomas Newton, D. D. the celebrated author of the deservedly admired dissertations on the prophecies, was created bishop of Bristol in December, 1761. He was born at Lichfield, in 1708, and

educated in the grammar school of that city under Mr. Hunter, a teacher of considerable reputation. In 1717 he was sent to Westminster school, and entered the University of Cambridge with a high character for ability and application, in the twentieth year of his age. His earliest friends were bishop Chandler and Dr. Pearce, afterwards bishop of Rochester, but he obtained no preferment in the church till 1744, when he was presented with the rectory of Mary-le-Bow, in Cheapside, by the interest of the Earl of Bath. During the rebellion of 1745 he published two sermons on that occasion, one of which had been preached before the House of Commons. In 1749 Dr. Newton appeared before the public as an editor of Milton, with considerable reputation; and in 1761 presented the world with his great work on the "Prophecies." The same year he was advanced to the episcopal bench by promotion to the see of Bristol. In 1764 he was offered the primacy of Ireland, but declined the proposal, and continued bishop of Bristol till his death, which happened on the 15th of February in 1782, and on the 28th of the same month he was buried in St. Paul's, London.

The Right Rev. Father in God William Lort Mansel is the present bishop of Bristol, and was consecrated in 1808.

The exact annual value of the estates held by the dean and chapter of Bristol cannot be precisely ascertained, in consequence of their fluctuation, arising from the renewal of leases, and from other causes. It is, however, generally supposed that the deanery usually produces from 500 to 600 pounds per annum, and that each prebendary might receive from 200 to 250; but the revenue of these preferments will always be liable to variation from the causes which have been already stated. The deanery of Bristol is in the patronage of the crown, and is neither charged with tenths nor first fruits.

Among the deans, one of the most illustrious names is that of William Warburton, D. D. afterwards bishop of Gloucester, and in many respects one of the most extraordinary men of the age in which he lived. He was born in Cheshire in 1698, and in the 19th year of his age was articled to an eminent attorney of Great Markham, in Nottinghamshire. The law, however, was not the profession of Warburton's choice, and seems to have been but little in unison with his genius and his inclination; it therefore can excite no surprise that he determined to relinquish it. He took orders in 1723, and in 1728 was presented by Sir Robert Sutton to the rectory of Brand Broughton, in the diocese of Lincoln. In this retirement he wrote

the Divine Legation of Moses Demonstrated, the Commentary on Pope's Essay on Man, and some other minor works, which procured for their author while living, fame, friendship, and patronage, and which, if implicit reliance may be placed upon the assertion of Bishop Hurd, will secure for Doctor Warburton an immortality of reputation.

Warburton was made dean of Bristol in 1757, and in 1760 was advanced to the mitre, by the illustrious Chatham. He enjoyed his preferment as bishop of Gloucester nineteen years, and died at the advanced age of eighty one, on the seventh of June in 1779. "He was, says Doctor Johnson, a man of vigorous faculties, of a mind fervid and vehement, with a wonderful extent and variety of knowledge, which had neither depressed his imagination, nor clouded his perspicuity; and to every work he brought a mind full fraught, with a fancy fertile of original combinations, exerting at once the powers of the scholar, the reasoner, and the wit."*

The mansion designed for the residence of the deans of Bristol, was anciently denominated the

* Life of Pope.

Dove-house; and was very considerably repaired by dean Creswick, in 1734, and nearly rebuilt by Warburton in 1758.

In addition to the revenues of the bishopric, which are to be appropriated to the respective members of the Cathedral, the statutes of the foundation appoint, that twenty pounds per annum shall be given to poor house-holders, and that an equal sum shall be annually expended in the repair of the highways. These circumstances are stated, not on account of the magnitude of the sums assigned to these purposes, but for the importance of their object. It is thus, that the external exercises of religion, and the exertions of active benevolence should be inseparable. For to lessen the mass of human infelicity, or to increase the sum of human happiness by the activity of beneficence, is to co-operate with the Divinity, and is, beyond all comparison, the most acceptable service which can be offered to the Deity.

CONTENTS

OF

CHAPTER THE FOURTH.

History of the Church of St. Augustine the Less, its Monuments and Inscriptions—Biographic Notices of Eminent Persons connected with its History—Of St. Mark's or the Mayor's Chapel—Of St. Stephen's—St. Werburgh's—All Saints—Christ Church—Mary Le Port—and St. Nicholas.

CHAPTER THE FOURTH.

FROM the history and description of the Cathedral, a transition to similar accounts of the other ecclesiastical structures of the city, is essential to the completion of the History of Bristol. In pursuing this plan, however, the limits assigned to our work compel us to be as concise as possible; we shall therefore principally confine ourselves to such circumstances, as either from their interest or their novelty, seem peculiarly entitled to attention.

The Church of St Augustine the Less was originally erected by the abbots of the monastery, for the better accommodation of such inhabitants, as had removed beyond the ancient boundaries of the city,

but who were still without the precincts of the convent. It would seem therefore that a church, or chapel, occupied the spot upon which St. Augustine's is erected, at a very early period in the history of Bristol; but the exact date of its erection has not been preserved, though it is certain that a church or chapel existed here as early as the year 1240.*

The present church was erected according to William of Worcester in the year 1480.† It has however been considerably enlarged in subsequent periods, and particularly at its eastern extremity. Galleries have also been added to its sides, and it is now considered capable of containing such inhabitants of the parish, as are members of the established church, notwithstanding the population of that part of the city has increased, in a peculiarly rapid progression, within the last twenty or thirty years.

In the history of this church, are no circumstances particularly worthy of record, but it may perhaps be gratifying to curiosity to mention, that

* It is mentioned at this period in an ancient deed relative to the Gaunt's House, now the Mayor's Chapel.

† Itin. de Wor. Page 229.

the organ was presented to it by Henry Cruger esq. member for Bristol, with Burke in 1774, and again with Matthew Brickdale esq. in 1784.

St. Augustine's Church is a plain structure, characterised rather by neatness, than by elegance or beauty. The architecture of this fabric is that of the pointed style; but it is a specimen of that art almost in its lowest state of declension, and by no means marked with the altitude, and peculiar beauty, which are the characteristics of that species of architecture in its perfection; such as it is exhibited in those interesting specimens of it, which still remain to attest the magnificent piety of our ancestors, and their exquisite taste, as well as their accurate perception of the sublime and beautiful in architecture.*

Among the monuments in this church are few, which from being connected with the memory of

* It is scarcely necessary to remark, that the perfect specimens of this style referred to in the text, are Salisbury Cathedral and Westminster Abbey; but it is just to add, that the student or the admirer of our ecclesiastical architecture will find a short but interesting history of the rise, progress, and declension of the pointed style in architecture, with the characteristics of its respective periods, illustrated by engravings, appended to the second volume of Sir R. C. Hoare's Giraldus Cambrensis.

individuals, particularly eminent either for their talents or their virtues, would excite a general or a permanent interest. That near the altar, inscribed to the memory of Sir William Daines, Knight, possesses perhaps the most claims to notice; but the inscription which should have transmitted to posterity, his honours, his exploits, and his virtues, is already become illegible. Sir William was representative of Bristol in several parliaments, first in 1701, and last in 1715.

In the south aisle are two tablets, of which the simplicity of the design, and the neatness of the execution, first arrest the attention; but independently of these, the inscriptions themselves deserve to be transcribed. That nearest the vestry is dedicated

To the memory
of
Henry King
Of Alvestone, in the county of Gloucester, gent:
His industry, prudence and ability,
were rewarded
With competence and esteem,
And his integrity
With a self approving conscience,
And an unsullied reputation.
He died December the 2nd 1792,
Aged 77.

The other tablet bears a name, which every one who has frequented the cathedral, has probably read inscribed on many of its monuments, to designate their artist. But "Poets must fall "like those they sung," and the name of him, who perpetuated the names of others is here, in its turn, consigned to the monumental marble;

Sacred
to the Memory of
W. PATY, Esq.
of this City,
Architect,
Who died Dec. 11th, 1800,
Aged 43 years.
This monument is erected as a small
but sincere tribute of affection,
by his widow and children,
who will
never cease deeply to
lament their loss.

At the extremity of the north aisle under the organ gallery, is a simply elegant tablet, bearing the following impressive inscription:

In memory of Fanny
the daughter of William and Francis Overend,
Born 3d June, 1786; Died 3d May, 1802.
The graceful loveliness of her person,
the attractive sweetness of her disposition,

and the early culture of her understanding,
promised a character
of no common excellence;
but heaven saw fit
to remove her from a state of trial
to one of enjoyment,
at the early age
of fifteen.

To these inscriptions we shall add one of peculiar interest from the church-yard, on a tomb near to that entrance which is opposite to the river. Time has already commenced the work of dilapidation on the tomb; we shall be happy if we can rescue the inscription from oblivion:

SACRED
to the memories
of INGLEBY DRAPER, Esq.
And MARY his wife
the parents of SIR WILLIAM DRAPER,
Knight of the Bath.
The father was snatch'd away
in the flower of his age.
He died May 3rd, 1721,
in his 27th year.
The mother surviving him, lived
full of Days, Honour, and Virtue
unto her 74th year,
When she was called hence
Sept. 6th, 1764.

Nearly opposite to the cathedral is the mayor's chapel, or the collegiate church of St. Mark. This is a small fabric, but interesting in its history, and entitled to attention for the ancient monuments which still remain, particularly in its small, or side aisle, and in the chancel.

This church was dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary, and St. Mark, and was erected by Maurice de Gaunt, probably about the year 1229. It originally belonged to the hospital of the Gaunts, which was founded for the maintenance of a chaplain, and the relief of one hundred poor every day.* At its foundation, this establishment was placed almost entirely under the direction of the canons of St. Augustine's monastery; but Robert de Gourney, nephew and heir to its founder, made it a distinct house, for the maintenance of a master, three chaplains, and the relief of a hundred poor, daily.† The master of this hospital is sometimes denominated a prior, as the establishment itself is called by Leland a priory of the order of St. Austin.‡ The modern

* Maurice's charter of foundation is said to be still extant among the registers at Wells.

† Monasticon Anglicanum, Vol. II. p. 455.

‡ Leland's Collec. Vol. I. p. 85.

church of St. Mark appears to have been the chapel of the Gaunt's hospital.

The founders of this church and hospital, were of an ancient and noble family, and were distinguished in the respective ages in which they flourished, equally by their munificence, and for their extensive possessions. Maurice de Gaunt died about the year 1230. Besides the benefactions of Robert de Gourney to the hospital of the Gaunts, he was the founder of a nunnery at Barrow Gourney, in Somersetshire. He appears to have resided in Bristol, since he is mentioned by Leland together with Fitzharding, the founder of St. Augustine's monastery, "As having a fair house in Portchester, and another in Bristow town; and that Sir Henry Gaunte was a knight sometime dwelling not far from Brandon-Hill, by Bristow."* Robert de Gourney died in 1269. The Sir Henry de Gaunt, mentioned by Leland, was probably brother to Robert de Gourney, and was master, or prior, of the hospital of the Gaunts till 1268. Sir Henry was buried in the church of St. Mark, in which a tomb, supporting his statue at full length yet exists, in the small or

* Leland's Itin. Vol. VII. p. 70.

side aisle, and if it escape the rude hand of violence, still promises to preserve his memory to a distant period.

The history of the hospital of the Gaunts, like that of most establishments of a similar nature, contains little to instruct or to amuse, and, if exhibited in detail, it would only excite pity or contempt. Its revenues at the period of the dissolution amounted, according to Dugdale, to £112. 9*s*. 9*d*. per annum, and according to Speed, to one hundred and forty pounds, of the money of the times. It was granted at the dissolution to the mayor, burgesses, and commonalty of Bristol for public uses, and the present grammar-school, which was originally Queen Elizabeth's hospital, is erected upon the space, upon which the hospital of the Gaunts formerly stood.* College-Green was also the burying-ground to the church of St. Mark, as well as to the monastery of St. Augustine.†

* A Collegiate church called Gaunts, from its founder Sir Henry Gaunt, knight, who quitting the affairs of this world, here dedicated himself to God; now by the munificence of T. Carr, a wealthy citizen, it is converted into a hospital for orphans."

CAMDEN'S BRITANNIA, Gibson's Translation.

† Orchard-street derives its name from occupying the space, which was originally the orchard of the Gaunt's hospital.

St. Mark's church consists of two aisles, a principal and a small or side aisle, of which the principal aisle was converted into a chapel for the mayor and body corporate in 1722, at which period "it was repaired and beautified* at the charge of the chamber." Before this alteration it was used as a chapel by such French protestants, as had sought an asylum in Bristol, from the impolitic persecutions of their native princes.

Previously to describing the monuments in the mayor's chapel, which seem particularly worthy of notice, it deserves to be recorded, that near the door at the entrance from College-Green, was buried, in 1680, the infamous Captain William Bedloe, the coadjutor of the equally infamous Titus Oates. He is said to have died insolvent, and to have

* The author cannot forbear entering his most decided protest against, what is called, the beautifying of our churches. He has never witnessed, without indignation, the havoc occasioned by it among the sacred memorials of the dead, many of which he has seen defaced and destroyed by a barbarous rage for beautifying the fabric, after they had withstood the attacks of time for ages. In repairing churches the object should be to restore the parts decayed or dilapidated as much as possible to their original state, but to preserve the inscriptions, and other memorials of our fathers, with all that scrupulous care, which is due to the most sacred deposits.

been buried by charity ; and no inscription marks the spot, in which were deposited the remains of a wretch, whose name deserves to be consigned to universal execration, as associated with the worst of crimes.

In the small or side aisle are a few monuments of considerable interest, and consequently entitled to notice. Besides the tomb of Sir Henry de Gaunt, already mentioned, there are two tombs at the eastern extremity of this aisle, which support statues at full length, of two knights, cross-legged, as marks of their having participated in the crusades, armed in mail except their faces, with their right hands resting on the hilts of their swords, and on their left arms their shields. It is highly probable that these tombs cover the remains of some of the family of the Gourneys, or their relatives the Berkeleys ; but they contain no inscriptions, and tradition has not preserved the names of those, to whose memories they were consecrated.

In the same aisle is an altar tomb, bearing neither statue nor inscription ; but simply marked with the initials J. C. or T. C. This monument covers the ashes of —— Carr, a man whose un-

bounded benevolence, under the direction of a superior judgment, prompted him to erect a more lasting monument to his name, by his active exertions in the founding, and endowing of the city-school. To this establishment Carr was a liberal contributor, and the benefits derived from this munificence amply entitle him to the gratitude of his fellow-citizens, and cannot fail to embalm his memory. Neither the date of his birth, nor that of his death, has been preserved; but it is certain that he flourished about the year 1580.*

In the same aisle was buried Patrick Keir, M. D. a man of letters, and eminent in his profession, but more particularly entitled to notice for having distinguished himself as an author, by a short treatise on the properties of the Bristol waters.†

The chapel itself, or the principal aisle of St. Mark's church, also contains several monuments, many of them bearing the names of individuals

* His will is dated April 10th, 1586.

† The inscription on Dr. Keir's tomb is preserved by Mr. Barrett; but as the author has not been able to find any stone inscribed with his name, it has probably been defaced or removed by some comparately recent *improvement*.

distinguished by titles and elevated in rank. To the genealogist, therefore, and to the student or the lover of heraldry, most of these tombs would be particularly interesting; but independently of these objects, few of the monuments in this aisle are distinguished by any peculiarities which entitle them to a description, or contain inscriptions, which for their interest or elegance, deserve to be transcribed. Among these few may be noticed an ancient monument near the chancel to the memory of William Bird, Esq. who was sheriff of Bristol, in 1573, and mayor in 1589, but deserving remembrance more than for either, for his liberal benefactions towards the endowing of Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, now the City-school, for the securing of which interesting object, Mr. Bird made the princely donation of five hundred pounds. He died in 1590. The inscription on his tomb is in latin verse, of which the four concluding lines deserve to be transcribed, not only for the sentiments they contain, but also for the language in which they are expressed:

"Vix dedit hisce virum Bristollia nostra diebus
Consimilem, seu virtutem, seu cætera spectes.
Gratus erat patriæ civis, jucundus amicis,
Progeniemque suam multâ cum laude reliquit."

"In the period in which he flourished, Bristol

scarcely produced his equal either in virtue or ability. He was honoured by his country, beloved by his friends; and at his decease, bequeathed to his posterity an untarnished reputation."*

In addition to this monument several ancient tombs in the chancel on each side of the altar deserve attention. The first on the left, near the steps, was erected about the year 1361, to the memory of Sir Thomas de Berkeley and Catharine his lady, daughter of John Lord Bottetourte, and bears their statues in the rude sculpture of the times. Next to this is a tomb bearing a statue, arrayed in the pontifical habit, consecrated to the memory of Miles Salley, abbot of Einsham, and afterwards bishop of Landaff, who died in 1516. Opposite to these are several monuments, of which the most interesting are a stately monument, with a statue, to the memory of Thomas James, mayor, and representative of Bristol, who died in 1615, and another with two statues kneeling, designed to

* This monument is now concealed by the pews, and as the inscription can be read only with great difficulty we shall transcribe the whole:

Gulielmus Birde, obiit Octobris 8, A. D. 1590.
Clarus, prædives, sapiens, et pro grege Christi
Sollicitus, sedem et victum cultumque ministrans
Dormit in hoc tumulo, sed spiritus æthera scandit:
Vix dedit, &c. &c.

THE ASTOR LIBRARY
NY



A View of
CLARE STREET with the DRAW BRIDGE,
Bristol.

preserve the names of Thomas Aldworth, and his son John, both eminent merchants of their time. The father died in 1598, and the son in 1615. This family was particularly distinguished by its spirit of enterprize in the colonization of Newfoundland, and by its commercial transactions with that country in the infant state of the colony.*

Of the churches in Bristol few are superior in the beauty of their external appearance to that of St. Stephen, which has always received a high degree of admiration for the peculiar elegance of its tower. The history, however, of this structure is incomplete, for the time in which it was erected has not been ascertained, but it is certain that it existed as early as 1304. At this period it belonged to the abbots of Glastonbury, and therefore it has been conjectured, with great probability, that some of their predecessors in that dignity, were its founders.

William of Worcester mentions this church, and has been particularly minute in recording the dimensions of its several parts.† Camden,

* Hackluit's voyages.

† Itin. de Wor. p. p. 120. 235. 282.

after noticing some of the other churches of Bristol, thus introduces St. Stephen's. "Nor must we omit taking notice of St. Stephen's church, the stately tower whereof, was, in the memory of our grandfathers, built by one Shipward, a citizen and merchant, with great charge and curious workmanship."* This tower was erected about the year 1470. Of the man to whom we are indebted for this elegant specimen of taste in architecture, little more is known than that it was John Shipward, who was the contemporary and probably the friend of Canyngs, that he was a merchant of the first respectability in the age in which he flourished, that he was a liberal benefactor to the indigent while he lived, and that at his death he bequeathed large estates to charitable purposes. He died in 1473,† and was buried in the church of St. Stephen; and though no tomb marks the spot, or is inscribed with his name, yet his memory shall be as durable

* Gibson's translation of the Britannia, page 74. Ed. 1695.

† The great east window was formerly of painted glass, and under the effigies of two persons was inscribed: "Orate pro animabus Johannis Shipward et Catharinæ uxoris ejus, qui Johannes istam fenestram fecit, et fuit specialis benefactor hujus ecclesiæ." "Pray for the repose of the souls of John Shipward and his wife Catherine. He erected this window and was an especial benefactor to this church." Shipward was several times mayor of Bristol, and its representative in two parliaments of Henry VI.

as the fabric with which it is associated, and shall thus be transmitted to a distant posterity with respect and veneration.

At the period of the dissolution, this church is said to have contained several chauntries, or charitable foundations, for defraying the expenses of celebrating mass for the repose of the souls of their respective founders. Of these, four have been ascertained, two of them were founded by Richard White, one by Edward Blanket, and the other by Thomas Belcher. Edward Blanket was representative for Bristol in 1362. There were three of this family, Edward, Edmund, and Thomas; they all appear to have been distinguished among their contemporaries, for their enterprize and spirit as manufacturers, at a period when Bristol was considered as much a manufacturing, as a sea-port town. They are said to have been the first who manufactured that article which still preserves, and will probably perpetuate the name of BLANKET.

Among the monuments in this church, the most interesting is that to the memory of Sir George Snigge, Knt. which is situated at the eastern extremity of the south aisle. Sir George was recorder of Bristol from 1592 till 1604. He was serjeant at law, and one of the barons of the exchequer. He

is celebrated as a man of great patriotism and of great integrity, and preserved a high character during a long life for his ability and integrity as a judge. He died in 1617, in the 73d year of his age.

In the same aisle of this church, over the vestry door, is a brass tablet dedicated to the memory of Robert Kitchen, who died in 1594. He deserves to be noticed as a benefactor to Bristol his native city. At his death, among other bequests for its benefit, he left 400*l.* in trust to the corporation to be lent to young tradesmen for a limited time free of interest.

On the north wall near the altar, is a curious monument inscribed "To the pious memory of Martin Pringe, sometime general to the East Indies, and one of the fraternity of the Trinity-House, who died in 1626, in the 46th year of his age.

In the south aisle near the door, is a monument inscribed with a name of peculiar interest, and therefore deserving of notice. The inscription runs thus—

Near this place are deposited,
in the Family Vault, the remains
of DAVID PELOQUIN, Esq. Alderman,
eldest son of STEPHEN PELOQUIN,

of this City, Merchant;
He changed this life for a better,
the 21st March, 1766, aged 66 years.
This monument was erected
by MARY ANN PELOQUIN,
His only surviving Sister.

Among the rectors of St. Stephen's church is found the name of Alexander Stopford Catcott, afterwards vicar of Temple, and author of a treatise on the Deluge. He is represented to have been a profound scholar, and particularly to have excelled in Hebrew literature. He was succeeded in the rectory of St. Stephen's by Josiah Tucker, D.D. afterwards dean of Glocester; whose superior talents and various productions upon subjects in religion and politics, entitle him to a place among the most eminent men of his age, and will transmit his name to posterity with peculiar respect.

The patronage of St. Stephen's is vested in the crown, and the presentation to the living is granted by the Lord Chancellor.

The church of St. Werburga, or Werburg, situated in Corn-street, was nearly rebuilt in 1761. Its patron saint is said to have been a daughter of Wulferus, king of Mercia, and to have presided over a nunnery at Trickingham, in Staffordshire,

till the time of her death, which event is said to have happened in 683.

The ancient church of St. Werburga was probably erected about 1185; but the tower was not built till nearly two hundred years after this period, or about 1385. This church,* together with that of Mary Le Port, was given to the abbey of the Black Canons, at Keynsham,† by the illustrious Robert Earl of Glocester.

In the subsequent history of the church of St. Werburga are few circumstances either of importance or of interest, and it only remains to be told, that within it are deposited the remains of that distinguished benefactor to his native city, Nicholas Thorne, the founder of the city Grammar School. From the Latin inscription on the brass tablet, which still bears his name at the extremity of the south aisle of this church,‡ we learn, that he was a merchant of considerable eminence, and of undeviating integrity; that every action of his life

* The patronage of St. Werburga, like that of St. Stephen, is vested in the crown. The parish is small, and the rectory is valued in the King's Books at 33*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

† See Vol. II. p. 92.

‡ Near to Thorne's is a similar tablet, but the inscription is no longer legible.

was prompted by benevolence and guided by virtue; and that he terminated a career, marked by honourable, because beneficent activity, unfeignedly and universally lamented in 1546, in the 50th year of his age. His reputation, however, shall be more extended,* because his name shall be transmitted to a grateful posterity along with the illustrious few, who have contributed to the amelioration of the human race, by diffusing more widely the means of intellectual cultivation. It is thus that the benevolent intentions of the Author of Nature are accomplished. For while we are thus ransacking the repositories of the dead, to rescue from oblivion a few of the distinguished names,† which in the ages that are gone have adorned our native city, it will serve to brighten the dark shades thrown from tombs, and heightened by sepulchres, to recollect that one of the objects of infinite benevolence in the creation of the world is the final perfection of the human race; and that

* Exiguum nobis vitæ curriculum natura circumscripsit, immensum gloriæ. "Thus while nature has circumscribed the little boundary of our mortal existence, she has afforded ample space to acquire an immortality of reputation."

† Pulchrum imprimis videtur, non pati occidere quibus æternitas debetur. Plinii, lib. V. Epist. 8.

"It appears particularly praiseworthy not to suffer the names of those men to sink into oblivion, who deserve to live in the memory of future ages."

death is an important means for the consummation of this object. " Death is beneficial to the species, because it weakens the empire of prejudice, and opens a path for the progress of intellect and of science. If the prejudices of the age are inveterate, death will soon sweep them with their subjects into the grave, and afford the next age a chance of being wiser. It is thus that death wages a constant war with ignorance; and thus is death the gradual, but sure reformer of all political and religious establishments.*

The church of All Saints is an ancient structure, and is one of the four churches which originally surrounded the high cross in the centre of the city. This circumstance proves it to be of great antiquity; but the period in which it was erected, and the name of the individual whose piety prompted him to become its founder, have both perished together. It is, however, still an interesting fabric, since it is connected with the history of the Kalendaries,† and will ever be associated with the recollection of their library: an establishment which certainly diffused a faint glimmering of intellectual illumination at the period when the torch of science was almost extinguished by the mists of superstition.

* Ponderer, No. 22, p. 125.

† See Vol. II. chap. 2.

The church of All Saints was early appropriated to the monastery of St. Augustine, and continued under its patronage till the period of the dissolution of monasteries; at which time the dean and chapter became its patrons, and have continued so to the present times.* Of its vicars before the dissolution, the majority were members of the society of the Kalendaries, among whom Sir Thomas Marshall and Sir John Gyllarde, deserve to be noticed as especial benefactors to the church and to the library. Sir Thomas Marshall was a kalendary, and is distinguished among the benefactors to All Saints church, by having erected a house near to it for the perpetual residence of its future vicars; he died on the 17th of June, in 1434. Sir John Gyllarde was prior of the Kalendaries. He erected a curious wainscot ceiling over the north aisle of the church, the pannels of which were decorated with rude representations of different scenes in the passion of Christ. He evinced his attachment to the society of which he was prior, and his fondness for literature, by expending upwards of two hundred pounds upon its library. Sir John Gyllarde died 1451.

All Saints church previously to the dissolution

* The dean and chapter of Bristol are also patrons of St. Augustine the Less.

contained several altars,* at which were performed obiits, or funeral obsequies, for the repose of the departed spirits of their respective founders. As these services gratified at once the love of fame in the individual, and were in unison with the natural dictates of affection in the survivors, it cannot be surprising that establishments for their support should have been numerous, particularly when the national theology represented them as efficacious in securing, or in obtaining, eternal felicity. If these institutions had been solely appropriated to the preserving of the memory of distinguished excellence, philosophy herself would have pronounced them sacred from the importance of their object; but when, like the altars in All Saints' church, they were inscribed to names undistinguished from their contemporaries, either by virtue or ability, they can only be regarded as the burthensome impositions of a puerile superstition.

Among the monuments in All Saints' church, by far the most interesting is that inscribed with

* These altars were particularly rich in their crucifixes both of gold and silver, of which the value was enhanced by their being adorned with rubies, and other precious stones. Upwards of 423 ounces of plate were taken from this church at the general pillage of religious houses.

the name of our distinguished philanthropist* Edward Colston. This monument, which may be pronounced elegant according to the prevailing style of erecting these memorials of departed worth or greatness, derives additional interest from bearing a statue of the philanthropist, executed by Rysbrack, and modelled from an original picture by Richardson. The artist has judiciously contrived a drapery for the figure, and yet he has arrayed it in that costume which was generally worn by the individual, whose resemblance it is designed to perpetuate. It is thus that the productions of the chisel may procure an augmentation of utility, and become authentic documents from which the future historian may accurately delineate the fugitive fashions of the ages that are gone.†

* A regard to the injunction which directs us "not to sacrifice to heroes till after sunset;" and a respect for the unostentatious benevolence which widely diffuses happiness, but which retires from the fame this conduct merits and acquires, equally concur in preventing us from inscribing this page with the name of a cotemporary philanthropist, of whom our native city is justly proud, and who is supposed to expend upwards of 3000*l.* per ann. in acts of beneficence.—"Superest adhuc, et exornat ætatis nostræ gloriam, vir sæculorum memoria dignus, qui olim nominabitur, nunc intelligitur." Quint. lib. X. cap. 1. "There still survives to give additional lustre to the age, a man who will deserve the admiration of future times. At present his excellence is known, and posterity will be careful to acquire to itself honour by preserving his name."

† It is still customary to place a tuft of such flowers as the

Of the other monuments in this church none possess sufficient features of peculiarity, either in themselves or in their subjects, to merit a minute description. A few are interesting from bearing the same name as the great Colston, particularly that consecrated by filial piety to the memory of his parents. But the proposed limits of our work compel us to be studious of brevity, and sometimes oblige us to sacrifice inclination to the necessity of its observance.

Christ church is a modern structure completed in 1788. It occupies the scite of an ancient fabric of the same name, but which was originally dedicated to the Holy Trinity. Leland records that, "in this church was originally kept the Kalendaries, otherwise called the Gild, or fraternity of the clergy and commonalty of Bristol; but subsequently removed to All Saints'."*

In the history of old Christ church are few other circumstances of sufficient importance to merit narration. Its monuments have perished with the fabric to which they were entrusted; and the few

season furnishes in the bosom of Colston's statue every Sunday. A mark of respectful attention which is more eloquent in his praise than the most polished panegyric.

* Leland's Itinerary, Vol. VII.

inscriptions which Mr. Barrett has rescued from oblivion, by recording them in his history,* contain neither instruction nor interest sufficient to deserve a transcription.

The present Christ church† is certainly a neat, and is frequently denominated an elegant fabric. Its monuments are few; but those few are in the best taste, being either tablets, or in the form of cenotaphs. In these simple forms monuments best harmonize with the surrounding objects, and may constitute elegant appendages to the principal structure.

We have visited these monuments, but not frequently, and at the moment in which we are writing, that which most impresses our recollection is inscribed to the memory of John Townsend, an eminent surgeon, who, by skill in his profession, raised himself to fame and to fortune. His reputation was at its zenith when we were commencing the career of life, but it still lives in the remembrance of many of our fellow citizens; and we

* Barrett's History of Bristol, p. 470.

† The patronage of this living was originally vested in the abbot and convent of Tewkesbury, but the members of the corporation are its present patrons. The value of the rectory has not been stated, but it is rated in the king's books at 3*l.* 8*s.*

should have deemed ourselves ungenerous to merit, if we had not seized this opportunity of paying a trifling tribute to his memory. Townsend died in 1800, in the 70th year of his age.

With Christ church was consolidated, in 1787, the church of St. Ewen. This church was of great antiquity, for it is mentioned in authentic documents as early as 1140. It was situated opposite to Christ church and to All Saints', and was one of the four churches which anciently surrounded the High Cross. William of Worcester twice mentions this church, and adds, " that the great east window of the altar was situated in Broad-street."* In this window, in 1461, stood Edward IV. to gratify the sanguinary appetite natural to tyrants, by observing the procession which conducted Sir Baudwyn Fullforde to execution. This event furnishes the subject of one of the most pathetic of those compositions attributed to Rowley, which bears for its title the denomination of the " Bristowe Tragedie."†

* Itin. de Wor. p.p. 227—215.

† Southey's edition of Chatterton's works, Vol. II. p. 87. The fact of Edward's visit to Bristol at this time is ascertained by an entry in the church-warden's book of account for this year thus: Item, for washynge the church payven against K. Edward 4th is comynge to Brystow, iiiid. ob. The circumstance is also corroborated by the testimony of Stowe.

The church of Mary Le Port derived its appellation from being situated upon an eminence gradually ascending from the river Avon. From the church to the river appears to have been an open space, and vessels seem to have been moored in this part of the river in preference to the Froome, or what is now the Quay, for the greater conveniency, or dispatch, of discharging and of receiving their cargoes. More anciently indeed it is more than probable, that this part of the city was the principal seat of its mercantile transactions; for we learn from William of Worcester, that the street which originally occupied the space, upon which Bridge-street now stands, was called Worship-street, "because it was a street of honour and dignity, and on account of the merchandize of wool landed there."

St. Mary-Port church is dedicated to the Holy Virgin, and was probably founded by Robert Earl of Gloucester, who granted it to the abbey of Keynsham, for the support of the canons of that religious establishment.* It contained several chauntries; connected however with no names of interest, which were suppressed at the period of the

* The patronage of Mary-Port was thus vested in Keynsham Abbey, from which it passed to Sir Thomas Bridges, and at present belongs to his grace the Duke of Chandois.

general dissolution of monasteries. The subsequent history of this church contains nothing, either of amusement or of instruction; nor has it been the means of rescuing from oblivion the names of any individuals so distinguished from their cotemporaries by intellectual or moral excellence, that their biography would excite interest, or awaken an emulation that would conduct to eminence.

St. Nicholas church is a modern structure, erected upon the scite of an ancient church dedicated to the same saint. Old St. Nicholas church formed a part of the ancient boundaries of the city, and was in a line with the circular wall, which together with the castle and towers erected at certain distances, constituted its fortifications. The entrance to the city, after passing the old bridge, was under an arch, upon which stood part of the chancel of St. Nicholas church.

This church originally contained seven chauntries; one of which was consecrated to the memory of Richard Spicer, the founder of St. George's chapel, in the Guildhall;* and two of the others to that of Thomas Knappe,† the founder of a chapel upon the Back, dedicated to St. John the Baptist.

* Vol. II. chap. 1, p. 49. † Chap. 11. p. 88, octavo.

The present church was begun in 1762, and finished about 1768,* at the expence of upwards of £6000. Its architecture is in that style which has been denominated the modern, in order to distinguish it from the style which prevails in our cathedrals, and other ancient ecclesiastical structures. Considered as a specimen of this style, it is perhaps true, that this church is characterized by an elegant simplicity; but it is by no means calculated to excite those associations of reverential awe and impressive devotion which, without any respect for superstition, may be regarded as peculiar to our ancient ecclesiastical architecture.

Under the tower, near the west entrance, is a monument to the memory of John Whitson, Esq. who raised himself from a very humble and obscure station to opulence and distinction. He was twice mayor, and represented the city in several parliaments during the reigns of the first James, and of his successor Charles. He was the author of a little treatise, entitled "The aged Christian's Farewell to the world and its vanities," which has passed through four editions. It is strongly marked by

* "At this period there were building in Bristol, a church, a theatre, and a bridge; of which the theatre was finished first, the bridge next, and the church last." MS. notes by Mr. Catcott, in the Bristol Library.

good sense and unaffected piety, without any tincture of the fanaticism of the age in which he lived. His piety was combined with active benevolence, and at his death, which took place in 1629, in the 72d year of his age, he bequeathed his fortune to charitable purposes. He was buried in the *crypt* or croud, and this monument was originally erected over his grave; but it was removed to its present situation by order of the corporation, and at the expence of the chamber, in testimony of their respect for the memory of a man who, whilst he lived, was a distinguished ornament of their body.

To the parish of St. Nicholas* was annexed in 1766, that of St. Leonard's. The church of this name was a small, but ancient fabric, though the date of its erection has not been preserved. It was removed in 1771, to afford an opening for the building of Clare-street; and if its history contained any circumstances of importance they have perished with it, and whatever memorials of the dead were entrusted to its care to be transmitted to posterity, are now irretrievably lost in everlasting oblivion.

By this time, perhaps, our readers, as well as

* The patronage of St. Nicholas originally belonged to the abbey of St. Augustine, and is at present vested in the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral.

ourselves, are somewhat fatigued by uninterrupted visits to tombs and sepulchres; or by the repetition of circumstances of unavoidable similarity; and consequently will not object to our deferring to a future chapter, what remains to be told of the history, or description of the other ecclesiastical structures of the city: since no position is more certain than that he, who wishes to instruct, should endeavour to excite interest, or to gratify curiosity; and that it is in vain to attempt to convey information, if it be not in some measure rendered the means of communicating pleasure.

CONTENTS

OF

CHAPTER THE FIFTH.

Description of the ancient form and early state of the City—Historical Sketch of its progressive Alterations—and of its early as well as recent Improvements.

CHAPTER THE FIFTH.

THE early history of cities, as well as of nations, is generally so envelloped in obscurity, or disguised in fable, that it is difficult to state with precision the exact period of their commencement. It is still more difficult to trace the periods of the progress by which they have advanced from insignificancy to importance. History has not condescended to record the period, in which the fisherman first erected a hut, or the shepherd built a cottage, on the spot which has since become eminent in civilization, or wealthy by commerce; and time sweeps before him in his progress the vestiges which would enable the antiquary to determine the degrees, by which the hut became a hamlet, or the cottage was increased to a village.

Equally unknown is the variety of gradations, by which the village was enlarged to a fortified city, protected by its charters, and increasing by its privileges, till it emulated a metropolis in population, in opulence, and in extended commerce.

To the history of Bristol, to its early state, and to the progressive advances, by which it attained its present rank among the commercial cities of the empire, these observations are particularly applicable; and as in this chapter it is proposed to give a sketch of the successive and recent improvements of the city, commencing with its original plan, and proceeding through its several alterations to the present time; these observations must form the introduction to such facts, as we have been able to collect, in relation to these subjects.

The original form of Bristol appears to have been circular; its principal streets, High-street with Broad-street, and Wine-street with Corn-street, intersecting each other, appear to have constituted the diameters of the circle. Its most ancient boundaries were John's gate and Nicholas gate on the north and south; Defence gate, near Dolphin-street, and Baldwin gate,* near Baldwin-street,

* This gate was subsequently called Leonard's, or Blind gate;

(through which was the ancient course of the river Froome) constituted the boundaries on the east and west. In addition to these principal gates, the wall also contained St. Giles' gate, and Tower gate; the archway of the last, and that of St. John's gate, constitute the chief remains of the ancient fortifications. It moreover deserves to be mentioned, that each of the principal gates had a church or chapel adjoining to it, of which St. John's church is the only existing specimen.

The extension of the original plan of the city appears to have commenced on the side of Redcliff, and on that of Temple. These parishes, however, seem to have been rather rival cities, or independent towns, than parts of the ancient city; for it is certain that Redcliff, in which Bedminster was included, was governed by its own magistrates; the chief of whom was denominated 'Præpositor,' and exercised the same authority, as well as possessed the same title, as the chief magistrate of Bristol.

The only means of communication between Bristol and Redcliff was originally that of a ferry; and consequently that communication must have

but whether Baldwin's gate was its *most ancient* denomination is perhaps dubious.

been greatly increased, as well as greatly facilitated, by the first bridge erected over the Avon. Antiquarians have not determined at what period this bridge was erected; but it is highly probable, that the first bridge over this river was built by the illustrious Robert Earl of Gloucester, probably as early as 1141.* This supposition assumes, however, the authority of an historical fact from a passage in a charter granted by Henry II. in 1173. The charter is granted to the men of Redcliff, who are called "Homines qui manent in marisco juxta PONTEM DE BRISTOW," the men who inhabit the marsh near to BRISTOL BRIDGE.†

Bristol and Redcliff were united to each other, and placed under the jurisdiction of the magistracy of the city of Bristol, by charter from Henry III. dated the 28th July, in the 31st year of that monarch's reign, or the year 1247.‡ This was the

* Ponderer, No. 13, p. 70. † Barrett's History, p.p. 73 & 663.

‡ The charters, &c. granted to Bristol; translated by the Rev. Samuel Seyer, M. A. Bristol, 1812. No. V. page 14. If this work has disappointed the expectations which were raised respecting it, no reflection on that account can attach to its respected and able translator. If it be true, as it has been objected, that conjectural emendations and verbal criticism are altogether inadmissible in legal instruments and historical documents, let the censure due to their employment belong to those whose illiberality, by refusing the editor access to the originals, obliged him to have recourse to their adoption,

era of great improvement in the city, for in this year the harbour was rendered considerably more commodious; the Froome was diverted from its ancient course through Stephen and Baldwin-streets to the channel in which it at present flows, and the old bridge was erected over the Avon at the united expence of the inhabitants of Bristol and of Redcliff.

The boundaries of the ancient city seem to have been next enlarged on the side of St. Augustine, to which object the vicinity of the monastery, and the erection of other religious edifices in the neighbourhood, greatly contributed. The only communication between these suburbs and the centre of the city, was then through St. John's to Froome gate, near which the Froome was crossed by a bridge, deriving its name from the river, and forming a communication between Christmas and Host-streets.

or to relinquish his design. The motion for granting Mr. Seyer's request to inspect the original charters in the possession of the Corporation, is said to have been lost in the Common Council by a single voice! It is to be wished that a list of the minority could be made public, in order to preserve their names and their memories from the censure or the contempt, with which posterity will not fail to view the proceeding.

Since this note was written the author has been informed that the body corporate acted by the advice of the Recorder, and he deems it an act of justice to insert the information.

This bridge constituted the only communication between the monastery and the centre of the city* down to the year 1714, at which period a draw-bridge was erected over the Quay, at the expence of £1066. 6*s*. 1*d*. The stone-bridge at the head of the Quay, opposite to Small-street, was not erected till 1754, at an expence of £2500. So comparatively recent, are most of the improvements, which seem absolutely essential to the commerce and to the convenience of the city. Nor must we omit to record, that both of these last mentioned improvements were effected through the public spirit, and at the expence of the body corporate.

From the middle of the thirteenth down to the middle of the seventeenth century, either no very important and extensive improvements were effected in the city; or their remembrance has perished and their progress can be no longer traced. It must, therefore, suffice to observe, that Bristol was rendered an independent county, separate from the counties of Gloucester and of Somerset, by

* In the centre of the city stood the celebrated High Cross, erected in the reign of Edward III. William of Worcester mentions that his father told him that he remembered its erection, and that before it was built, a holly tree grew in the centre of the city!

charter from Edward III. in 1373;* and that the enterprise of Cannyngs, and of his contemporaries,† by the commencement of the sixteenth century, had raised it to a high reputation for commercial respectability, and extensive mercantile connexions.

The earliest account of the population of Bristol, with which the author is acquainted, occurs in the MS. history before quoted,‡ thus "An account was taken in 1607, of the number of people in the city of Bristol, in order to know how much corn was required every week for their support. The whole number of all sorts was found to be ten thousand five hundred and forty-nine." In 1801 the popu-

* The Charters, &c. by the Rev. Samuel Seyer, A. M. No. XII. page 39.

† Among these contemporaries may be distinguished Cabot, Elliot, and Thorne, who were unquestionably men of the greatest enterprise of the time in which they flourished. "Mr. Thorne, of Bristol, (says Dr. Bisset,) one of the greatest merchants and boldest adventurers of the age, established a factory at Cuba; and was the FIRST ENGLISHMAN who set the example of a commercial settlement in the new world. Employing the opportunities, he thereby acquired, not only for the purposes of present traffick, but for discovery, and future extension of commerce; he sent agents to the Spanish fleet, furnished with great sums of money to bring exact charts of the seas, rivers, and lands, which they visited; and as accurate a description of the accessibility, state, and productions of the several countries, as they could procure." Bisset's History of the Reign of George III. Vol. I. p. 34.—and Hackluyt, Vol. II. p. 726.

‡ Vol. II. chap. 2.

lation was found by the census, to be 63,645; and in the year 1811 the population of Bristol, including the parishes of Clifton and Bedminster, amounted to 71,279. It was necessary thus to anticipate the order of time, that by placing these amounts in one point of view, a comparison of the increase of the population of the city from the period it is first recorded to the present, might be made with greater facility. We must now carry back our readers to the middle of the seventeenth century, or about the year 1655.

Few cities in the kingdom have undergone greater alterations, or been the subject of greater improvements in the course of the last and of the preceding centuries than Bristol. The most important of its improvements have indeed taken place within the last fifty years; but there is an evident propriety in commencing our sketch of the recent improvements of the city, with the demolition of its castle and fortifications, which took place in the year 1655. This circumstance increased the city by several additional streets;* and what is

* It is scarcely necessary to observe that these streets are Castle-street, Castle-Green, and Old Market-street, though some houses in the last mentioned seem to be of an earlier date. Perhaps the curious will be interested in knowing, that the centre of Old Market-street is said to have been a deep and narrow hollow-way; so deep

still more important, it opened a new road from the centre of the city to that part of Glocestershire, through which is the shortest, and most direct communication with the metropolis.

The first important improvement in the commencement of the last century was the erection of Queen's-square, by which a marsh that had long been used as a receptacle for the rubbish of the city, was converted into one of the most spacious squares in the kingdom. Queen's-square was begun in 1708, and finished in 1726; and during half a century was the favourite residence of our principal merchants, and the central point of attraction to the beauty and fashion of our city. The equestrian statue of William III. in the centre of this square was executed by Rysbrack; and erected in 1736, at the expence of £1800. It is a noble monument of the skill of that artist, and will remain to exact from a distant posterity, the tribute of admiration for his genuis.

that it was easy to leap from the causeway or foot-path upon the top of a waggon laden with hay; and so narrow that it was possible to reach the opposite side from the waggon. An ancient mansion-house at the bottom of Captain-Cary's lane in Ellbroad-street, now modernized, bears over its portico the date of 1613; and in its vicinity the author met with a curiously carved door, which seemed coeval with the building to which it is attached, dated 1607.

The present bridge was rebuilt in 1768; and is the era from which the greatest modern improvements in the city are to be dated. At the same time the old shambles were removed to make an opening for Bridge-street; which in point of regularity, will bear a comparison with most streets designed for the purposes of commerce. About this period the church and spire of St. Nicholas were rebuilt, and the lower part of High-street filled up; the ascent to which before this time was not only difficult, but dangerous.

In 1770 the Bishop's Park was obtained by the late Samuel Worrall, Esq. on a lease for ninety years, at sixty pounds per annum; and the erection of College-street was begun in 1772. This year is still more memorable in the history of improvements in Bristol, by the removal of St. Leonard's church, with the archway and buildings connected with it, in order to open a space for the building of Clare-street. This gate had obtained the denomination of Blind-gate, and the sombre gloom of its appearance still lives in the memory of a few of our fellow citizens. Its removal therefore, was an important improvement, particularly when considered in its connexion with the centre of the city.

The ground upon which Park-street stands was

originally denominated Bullock's Park; the buildings were begun in 1775. In 1787 Tucker-street was taken down, and the modern houses of Bath-street erected. In 1789 the foundation of St. Paul's church was laid, and Portland-square, with the numerous adjoining streets, were either begun or planned; some of which are already finished, and the others rapidly approaching their completion. Brunswick-square and the streets adjoining are of an earlier date. About 1789, also an important improvement was effected by the erection of Union-street, and its market; and in 1796 Nelson-street, opening an advantageous communication with Broadmead and the Quay, was commenced, but is not yet entirely completed.

From the latter part of this sketch an idea may be formed of the many and great improvements which have been recently effected in Bristol; and the many additions which have been made to the city within the last forty or fifty years. The additions indeed are so numerous, that it has probably increased at least a third within the last half century. In this sketch many streets have been omitted, of which some indicate by their names the periods of their erection; of these Marlborough and Eugene-streets may be taken as examples. Others such as Berkeley-square and Cresent, and

the numerous streets upon Kingsdown, have been erected within the last thirty years; but the exact periods of their commencement and completion have either not been ascertained, or were deemed destitute of sufficient interest to require a particular notice.

It was originally the author's intention to notice in this stage of his work, such houses in the several parts of the city as seemed entitled to remembrance, for having been the residence of any distinguished or remarkable characters. He regrets that his enquiries in reference to these objects, have been either unsuccessful, or unsatisfactory. If however any additional information in this respect should be obtained, previously to the completion of this work, he now proposes to insert whatever he may procure in the appendix. It is almost superfluous to add, that authentic information in relation to these or to any objects connected with the topography of Bristol, will always be received with peculiar pleasure and considered as an obligation.

In the preceding sketch of the improvements effected in the city, the periods in which such public buildings as the Exchange, Library, &c. were erected are omitted, that they may, with more propriety, find a place in our account of the several public buildings of Bristol. It now remains that we

complete this sketch, by adding to it a survey of the successive and recent improvements which have been effected in the port and harbour of the city.

The situation of vessels frequenting the port of Bristol, appears to have been anciently that part of the river Avon which is now denominated the Back.* It has already been observed that the Frome was diverted from its former course through Baldwin and Stephen streets, and the present Quay was formed in 1247 at the united expence of the citizens of Bristol and the inhabitants of Redcliff.† From this period no material alteration appears to have been made in the harbour till the construction of the dry Dock in the Grove in 1769. This improvement was effected by the members of the merchants'-hall, at the expence of ten thousand pounds. The Floating-dock in the Hotwell Road which cost the sum of fifteen thousand pounds was begun and finished about the same period. From these improvements the harbour of Bristol, in extent and convenience, was ranked amongst the finest in Europe. As the vessels however by lying upon the mud, after the departure of the tide, were liable to receive injury from their situation, the

* Mr. Barrett derives the word Back from *Bek*, a Saxon term, signifying a river.

† Chap. 5. page 205.

recent improvements have removed the possibility of accidents arising from that source, and rendered the harbour equally secure, as it was formerly extensive, and convenient for mercantile transactions.

The idea of converting the rivers Avon and Froome into immense floating docks, by means of dams, appears to have been first brought into discussion in 1765. Perhaps it will be more accurate to state, that this was the period at which it was discussed as an object highly desirable, and immediately practicable. Early in the year 1765, Mr. Smeaton published a plan of the proposed improvement, and a calculation of the expence of the undertaking. This plan is said to have differed in several respects from that which has been adopted, and his calculation gave the sum of £25,000. as the probable expence, *exclusive* of the purchase of lands, and the amount for damages done to mills, docks, &c. In 1767 Mr. Champion published a plan, which is said to have approached much nearer to that which has been adopted; but the expence of carrying either of these plans into immediate execution, was deemed an insuperable difficulty; and in consequence the scheme was for the present relinquished.

The design however was by no means abandoned, and the public attention was frequently

directed to it by essays and other communications in the several newspapers, as well as by separate publications and plans, in relation to the projected alteration. In 1791 Mr. Jessop published his plan for the improvement of the harbour. This plan approaches very nearly to that which has been adopted, and it was intended to carry it into immediate execution; but the intervention of war arrested the progress of the design, for it was deemed expedient to postpone its commencement, till the season of peace should afford greater facilities for its completion.

At the return of peace the discussions in relation to this object were resumed; and in 1802 a committee from the body corporate, and another from the members of the merchants'-hall, were delegated to meet each other, to examine the several plans, and to determine upon the most eligible. The utmost unanimity is said to have prevailed in the discussions, and in the determinations of the committee. That the projected alteration was highly desirable, and in a commercial point of view highly expedient, if not of absolute necessity, would scarcely admit of a variety of opinion. It was therefore determined that some scheme for the improvement of the harbour should be immediately adopted, that subscriptions should be raised for

The plan which has been adopted, though last proposed, had superior advantages, procured indeed at an additional expence, but that comparatively trifling for its recommendations, and these obtained for it a preference almost general ; and in consequence the subscriptions were transferred from the *first* plan to the *second*, with very few exceptions. The estimated expences of completing this plan were nearly £300,000. but the additional subscriptions were filled up with a readiness, which manifested at once the public approbation of the scheme, and the wealth of the citizens. Thus supported, application was made to parliament for a bill which should grant the power of making the proposed alterations ; and in 1803 the bill was passed. Its preamble states with the utmost perspicuity the advantages which were proposed from the completion of the undertaking, and for that reason it deserves a place in our work.

"That whereas ships and vessels lying at the Quays, in the port and harbour of Bristol, are by the reflux of the tide left dry twice every 24 hours, which prevents many foreign vessels and others of a sharp construction from frequenting thc said port and harbour, and occasions great injury and damage to vessels using the said port. And whereas there is not sufficient depth of water at neap tides in the said port and harbour to take vessels from the Quay

down the river Avon to sea, or bring them on their return from voyages, whereby favourable winds are frequently lost, and great expences, delays, damages and losses are sustained, to the hinderance of commerce, and to the manifest disadvantage of the port and city of Bristol.

"And whereas ships and vessels lying in the said port and harbour of Bristol cannot be removed out of danger in case of fire, owing to their being left dry, and very heavy losses might arise therefrom, and in case of fire among the houses in the said city of Bristol great inconvenience and loss would be experienced from want of water.

"And whereas these dangers and inconveniences may be removed by erecting three dams across the river Avon, at Redclift, at Totterdown, and near the Engine Mills at Brislington; and cutting a new course for the river Avon on the Somersetshire side of its present course, from Redclift to Totterdown, and making sundry locks, basons, other works, &c. But in as much as the same cannot be done without authority of Parliament, it is prayed that the stated clauses be passed into a law, &c."

By this act the direction of the improvement was vested in a board of twenty-seven directors,

consisting of nine members of the common council, including the mayor for the time being; nine of the society of merchants, including the master; and nine of such subscribers to the undertaking as were possessed of ten shares each, who were to be chosen by ballot from the subscribers at large. This board was empowered to carry all the provisions of the act into execution, entrusted with the entire management of the affairs of the dock-company, and were to continue in office till the expiration of a year after the works should be completed.

In order to defray the expences of the undertaking, the board was authorised to impose certain rates upon vessels as some remuneration for the advantages they would derive from the alterations, and certain duties were to be paid for various articles imported into the city. Both these rates and duties were defined by a schedule annexed to the act. The dock-company were also empowered to levy a rate upon all houses and other property in the city, in the same ratio as they contributed towards the poor, so as the said rate should not exceed in the whole the sum of two thousand four hundred pounds.

Commercial men have asserted that these duties upon vessels and merchandize were inconsiderable, when contrasted with the advantages proposed from

the improvement. Some have even contended that it would have been preferable if these had been increased, provided their duration had been limited, that the rate upon houses might have been avoided. But a sounder and more extended policy would dictate that this system should be reversed, and that for public works and local improvements the citizen should be taxed, when the stranger is exempt. There can be no question that every facility of access should be furnished to the foreigner; and that, on the principle of commercial competition, he should be invited by the prospect of a combination of advantages, which it would be difficult, if not impossible, to procure in any other port in the Empire or in the world.

The terms upon which the subscriptions were advanced were peculiarly liberal, and evince a degree of public spirit which it is difficult to commend too highly. The money was to bear no greater interest than four per cent. per annum for the first six years, and however productive the scheme might be in a pecuniary point of view, the subscribers were to derive no advantage beyond an interest of eight per cent. per annum on the original subscriptions. Whatever the docks might produce, beyond this amount, was directed to be applied to the discharge

of the principal; and when this is accomplished, the corporation of Bristol will become the proprietors of the works.

When the design had advanced thus far in its progress, the intervention of war again threatened to delay the actual commencement of the improvement, till the times should be considered more propitious to its completion. It was however judiciously contended, that there never would be a time when no difficulty would exist, and that if the scheme was now relinquished it would probably be abandoned for ever. Its immediate commencement therefore was resolved upon, and on the first of May, 1804, the resolve was put into execution.

As the rates and duties allowed by the act took immediate effect, it became necessary that the dock-directors should pledge themselves for the completion of the improvements within a limited time. This period was fixed to four years from the commencement of the work; and if by the expiration of this term it remained unfinished the rates were to cease, and thus not only would the prospect of all remuneration be annihilated, but all the interest arising from the sums advanced would be irrecoverably lost.

In the progress of the design it was discovered, that an extension of the plan fixed upon, was not only advantageous but essentially necessary to the completion of the improvement. Application was accordingly made to parliament for a bill to empower the dock directors to extend the original plan, so as to embrace the projected alterations. But by this period the gentlemen in opposition to the scheme had increased either in numbers, activity, or in parliamentary influence, for the bill was lost in the house of commons on the second reading. It is difficult to reconcile an event of this nature with the dictates of an enlightened policy, which ought by every means in its power to promote a spirit for local improvements, more particularly when they are proposed to be accomplished at the expence or at the risk of individuals. In unison with this policy has been the general conduct of the British government; since it has for the most part given a liberal encouragement to every scheme which has proposed public utility as its object; and consequently the proceedings of the legislature on this occasion, from being unusual, become the more remarkable.

The delay of a year was not the only consequence of the loss of this bill. It necessarily pro-

duced a very considerable additional expence, i shook the public confidence as to the completion o the scheme, and consequently produced some em barrassment in the concerns of the dock company. This embarrassment was however only temporary for the few gentlemen, who had been selected t superintend the passing of the bills, gave the bank of England immediate security, to the amount o one hundred thousand pounds. In the subsequent session the bill was passed, and the period for the completion of the work was extended from four, to five years.

At length all difficulties seemed surmounted, but incredible exertions were requisite to finish the works by the time which had been assigned. The author well remembers the activity of the scene, which he witnessed in the erection of Princes'-street bridge, a few days only before the term expired. This bridge was constructed with a rapidity, which seemed rather the operations of magic, than those of manual labour. In a former age it would have been pronounced to be the production of fairies; but happily now the agency of these little beings exists only in tales of the nursery, or in the fancy of the poet.

In May, 1809, the dock company made applica-

ion to the magistrates of the quarter sessions for a certificate that they had fulfilled their engagements, as far as the navigation and commerce of the city were concerned. After some discussion the claim was allowed to be substantiated, and the certificate was accordingly granted. Thus was brought to its termination, an improvement which must be allowed to be highly creditable to the ability, and the perseverance of the gentlemen by whom it was supported and conducted, as well as honourable to the city at large. In our opinion those who projected, and those who managed this improvement have deserved well of their fellow-citizens, and of their country; and we hope that the period is not far distant, when their remuneration shall bear some proportion to the excellency of their deserving.

It has already been stated that the calculations of the probable expences of effecting these improvements in the harbour were £300,000. the actual cost however has been nearly £600,000.! All the causes which produced this disproportion in the calculations and the actual expence have not yet been ascertained, and consequently we must content ourselves with enumerating such as have been the most prominent.

It must be premised that these calculations were formed in the expectation of the continuance of peace; the occurrence of war therefore produced some variation by an increase in the price of labour, and perhaps likewise inthe materials, which were necessary for the improvement. The opposition also with which the scheme had to struggle was a source of additional expence; in its origin unexpected, but in itself considerable. To these are to be added the additions which were subsequently made to the original plan, which of necessity became sources of expence, that however anticipated, were still of great magnitude.

But the causes which most operated to augment the expence of carrying the plan into execution were the unexpected value assigned to property which it was necessary to purchase, and the heavy damages given by juries in the suits which the company has defended against individuals, who considered themselves injured by the alterations effected either in the Avon or the Froome. Much of the expence originating in these causes could not have been anticipated, and therefore for them it was impossible to make any provision. The particulars will probably be soon published; and either our memory is defective, or these particulars will excite surprize in the perusal, but the lesson

they will furnish will be both instructive and useful. They will imperiously bid the sanguine projector pause before he embark in a scheme of doubtful success; but we do most unfeignedly wish that they may never have any tendency to check the progress of the spirit of improvement, or to damp the generous ardour which sacrifices individual interests in the promotion of schemes, which are intended to promote the benefit of the community.

The objects which were proposed to be accomplished by the improvement, of which we have thus given an historical sketch, are perspicuously and distinctly stated in the preamble to the act which authorized its commencement.* Since the work has been completed, that which was the conjecture of speculation has become the decision of experience, and it is pleasing to add that no disappointment has been incurred. Whatever advantages were promised from the execution of the scheme have been completely realized. It is true that an immense loss has been sustained, but this has fallen upon individuals; and in this instance at least the losses of individuals have been the means of increasing both the public conveniency, and the public wealth.

* Page 218.

Among the advantages derived from the improvement, this may deserve to be distinguished, that now the largest vessel of the port may proceed to sea with the lowest neap tides. Before the improvement of the harbour, weeks and even months were lost, because large vessels were obliged to wait for the spring tides, and were consequently incapable of taking advantage of favourable winds for leaving the Bristol channel. This inconvenience, as well as source of expence, is now entirely removed, and that in a degree which was not contemplated before the completion of the improvement. The expence too of loading and of unloading vessels is considerably diminished, as they now always preserve the same relative position to the walls of the quay, and are no longer elevated or depressed by high or low water. This is a practical advantage resulting from the adoption of the scheme, which was either not insisted upon, or not anticipated in the extent in which it has been experienced.

Of the *plan* by which these advantages have been secured, we have scarcely spoken. The *improvement itself* has our warmest admiration, and we have already frankly confessed that when the several plans for effecting it were discussed, we had neither leisure nor inclination to scrutinize

their respective merits. Of one feature in the plan which has been adopted we know not how to speak too highly, we mean its *simplicity*: by which it was adapted to existing circumstances and existing conveniences. In effecting similar improvements in other parts of the kingdom,* immense sums have been expended in the purchase of houses which were to be removed before the alterations could be begun, and when they were finished new warehouses in contiguous situations became necessary. In Bristol two navigable rivers were converted into immense floating docks; the warehouses however, which were erected by our fathers, so far from being deserted only became the more valuable, and the transactions of commerce acquired an additional certainty, expedition, and facility.

From the history which we have thus given of the successive improvements in the harbour of Bristol, it appears in a great measure to be the creation of art. Nature indeed had formed the

* To construct the New London Docks for instance, several hundred houses were removed, and immense expences incurred before they could be begun; and when finished, new warehouses became necessary to give to commerce all the expedition which present circumstances render essential almost to its existence, but certainly to its success.

harbour secure, but art has rendered it commodious and convenient. The history of its improvements is honourable to the enterprize, perseverance, and public spirit of the citizens. It shall be granted that its harbour is a principal source of that wealth, which gives Bristol its pre-eminence in the commercial world; but it is at the same time gratifying to be able to record, that the wealth which has been thus acquired has not been dissipated in luxurious gratifications, but has been employed in procuring advantages, in which the community and the country participate.

CONTENTS

OF

CHAPTER THE SIXTH.

History of the Church of St. Michael; its Monuments; Biographical Notices of eminent Persons connected with its History—of St. James—St. John—St. Paul—St. Peter—St. Philip—St. Thomas—Temple—and St. Mary Redcliff.

CHAPTER THE SIXTH.

In the history of a city, historical and descriptive notices of its churches, are of indispensable necessity, and may at the same time be rendered sources, either of instruction or of amusement. To combine these objects, as far as we were able, biographical notices of such individuals as are connected with the history of the churches of Bristol were introduced into our narrative. In the present chapter we propose to proceed upon similar principles; preserving, however, that regard for conciseness, of which the limits assigned to our work will, in all cases, compel us to be particularly studious.

The ancient church of St. Michael was origi-

nally dedicated to the archangel, and is conjectured to have derived its origin from Robert Fitzhaymon, the founder of the abbey of Tewksbury. St. Michael's constituted a part of the endowment of that celebrated abbey; and in 1193, Richard Cumblain was presented to this rectory by the abbot and members of that religious establishment.

Robert Fitzhaymon, the probable founder of this church, was a gentleman of the bed-chamber to William Rufus; and for his zeal and activity in securing that monarch's power in opposition to the pretensions of his brother Robert, the duke of Normandy, Fitzhaymon was raised to the dignity of the Earldom of Gloucester, and put in possession of the estates which had supported the power and the splendour of the peerage. He died in 1107, and was buried in the choir of the abbey at Tewksbury.

The church of St. Michael continued under the patronage of Tewksbury abbey upwards of a century, but in 1291 it appears to have been annexed to the archdeaconry of Gloucester and the deanery of Bristol. The corporation of Bristol became its patrons by purchase in 1627.

The present church was commenced nearly

upon the scite of the old St. Michael's in 1775, and completed in 1777. It is consequently a modern structure, but its interior does not in any degree tend to excite associations, which are incompatible with the sacred service to which it is appropriated.*

The monuments in this church are few; neither are those few calculated to excite any very general interest. We have visited them with those peculiar feelings, which scenes like these inspire, and remember having been particularly struck with the Latin inscription on a tablet bearing the name of Henry Hobhouse, Esq. This tablet is near the door in the north aisle, and nothing but the length of the inscription prevents our transcribing and translating it. He is represented as having been a

* St. Michael's church is a specimen of the barbarous combination of Grecian and Gothic architecture, by which modern taste has been distinguished. Its exterior is particularly *plain*, and the windows are in the Gothic or pointed style; the interior is Grecian architecture tastefully *ornamented*; but the effect of a Gothic window seen through Grecian columns would be ridiculous, if the sanctity of the place did not inspire a better feeling. To procure variety, the sashes which separate the entrance from the body of the church have *circular* heads. It is surely time that these barbarisms should be universally exploded. Since every species of architecture has its distinct characteristics, and to confound them thus in the same building, manifests as gross ignorance as to confound Corinthian with Doric, or Ionic with Composite.

man of genius and of various acquisitions, both elegant and profound. He was eminently skilled as a lawyer, and obtained the highest reputation as a pleader. He died in 1772, in the 49th year of his age.

As we approach the altar from this monument, a peculiarly neat tablet arrests attention, bearing the following inscription:

Sacrum Memoriæ
ELISABETH ALOISIÆ BONUCCI,
Ornatæ Piæ Benevolentis
JOSEPH ANTONIUS,
Grato conjugis animo
P.
Nata die v. Aprilis MDCCLV
Obiit viii. Junii, MDCCCXI.

Sacred
to the
Memory
of
ELISABETH ELOISA BONUCCI,
Who was distinguished
By elegance of manners,
By piety,
By benevolence.
Her grateful husband
JOSEPH ANTONIUS,
caused this monument to be erected.
She was born on the 5th of April, 1755.
She died on the 8th of June, 1811.

Near the altar is an elegant monument to the

memory of Joseph Percivall, a merchant of eminence, who raised himself to fortune by his talents and his industry. He died in 1764, in the 74th year of his age. The figures on this monument are well executed, and exhibit peculiar taste.

Leaving the altar to approach the south aisle a mural tablet solicits notice, because it records the premature removal of a youth of great promise and of great worth. A father and a sister sleep in the same grave.

Sacred to the memory
of RICHARD STRATTON,
Eldest Son of
ANTHONY PALMER COLLINGS,
And JOANNA his Wife,
Obiit 16th May, 1808,
Ætat 15.
Also to ANTHONY PALMER COLLINGS, Esq. late Collector of the Customs in this Port. Obiit 28th May, 1809, Ætat 56.
Also to ELIZA FRANCES, eldest daughter of
ANTHONY PALMER COLLINGS, and JOANNA his Wife,
Obiit 22d August, 1812. Ætat. 21.

In the church-yard of St. Michael, a flat stone covers the grave of W. J. Roberts. This interesting and amiable youth has erected to himself a memorial which shall not perish, but we early "learned to love the memory" of genius, and we derive a melancholy pleasure from paying this tri-

bute of our respect to his reputation. The grave-stone of Roberts bears the following inscription:

To the Memory of
WILLIAM ISAAC ROBERTS,
Son of
WILLIAM and ANNE ROBERTS,
Born May 5th, 1786,
And died
December 26th, 1806.
His amiable and friendly disposition,
steady character and powers of genius,
displayed themselves at a very
early period of life,
and continued to its final close,
endearing him to his disconsolate
parents, relations and friends,
who will long lament his loss.

The early education of Roberts was in no respect favourable to the expansion of his intellectual powers. He soon became sensible of his deprivation, and applied all the energy of his superior mind to remedy the deficiency. His days were devoted to business and the hours which should have been given to relaxation or to rest, were rigidly applied to study. It must be recorded as the prominent feature in the character of Roberts, that he sought reputation neither in the indulgence of eccentricity, nor in the dereliction of the duties of his station, but that he sacrificed the sprightly hours of youth to employments uncongenial with

his taste, and incompatible with his happiness, because he deemed the sacrifice the dictate of duty, and essential to the happiness of a mother. Peace to his gentle spirit! and the fame for which he panted, shall duteously attend upon his memory, for his virtues and his genius have consecrated his name to an unfading reputation.*

The parish church of St. James, was originally the chapel of a Priory of considerable extent, dedicated to the honour of God, the blessed Mary, and St. James the Apostle. This Priory was foun-

* Of the poetical effusions of Roberts, the reader is presented with a specimen, marked by peculiar tenderness and as applicable to the poet, as to her whom he loved and lamented.

EPITAPH.

Pilgrim, if youth's seductive bloom,
Thy soul in pleasure's vest arrays;
Pause at this sad and silent tomb,
And learn how swift thy bliss decays.

But ah! if woe has stabb'd thy breast,
And dimm'd with tears thy youthful eye;
Mourner, the grave's a house of rest,
And *this one* teaches how to die!

For she who sleeps this stone beneath,
Though many an hour to pain was given;
Smiled at the hovering dart of death,
While hope displayed the joys of heaven.

See "Poems and Letters by W. J. Roberts," and the Ponderer, No. 20, p. 109.

ded and endowed by the illustrious Robert Earl of Gloucester, probably as early as the year 1130. The chapel is said to have been erected by appropriating to this sacred purpose, every tenth stone intended to be employed in the repairing and enlarging of Bristol Castle, of which the Earl of Gloucester was then lord and governor. This was in the genuine spirit of the superstition of the times, and transcendently great as the genius of Robert unquestionably was, it was either incapable of escaping its influence, or it considered that policy dictated the expediency of complying with its injunctions.

Robert Rufus, Earl of Gloucester, and founder of this priory, was the natural son of Henry I. by Nesta, daughter of Rhees, Prince of South Wales. He was born about the year 1090, and in 1109, married Mabilia, daughter and heiress of Robert Fitzhaymon. Upon the usurpation of Stephen, he distinguished himself by his zeal and attachment to the rights of Matilda, of whose cause he was the firmest support, and to him is to be attributed the success which enabled her for a short period to wield a sceptre that she had not the skill to retain. During every reverse of fortune, he preserved the most unshaken fidelity to his sovereign, neither could disgust at her haughty demeanour to her

subjects, nor the suggestions of ambition inviting him to a throne, induce him to deviate from the dictates of integrity. In such estimation was he held by Matilda, that being taken prisoner by some of Stephen's party near Winchester, in 1141, the Earl of Gloucester was deemed an equal exchange for that monarch, and thus became the means of releasing the king from a dungeon, to restore him to the throne.

Nor was it merely by his skill and intrepidity in the field that the Earl of Gloucester so greatly surpassed his contemporaries; he was equally distinguished by his love of science and literature, and by his munificent patronage of learning.* To him William of Malmesbury dedicated his History, and if no other circumstance entitled him to the admiration of posterity, this alone should consecrate his name to immortality.

It only remains to be added, that the character of Henry II. was in a great measure the formation of the Earl of Gloucester, and that he terminated his distinguished and truly honourable career in 1147 in the 57th year of his age. He was buried in the centre of the choir of the priory chapel,

* Littleton's History of the Life of Henry II.

now the parish church of St. James, but neither monument nor inscription preserves the memory of the spot; yet his name, and the remembrance of his talents and virtues shall be as durable as it can be rendered by the literature, which he loved and patronized.

The priory of St. James, which owed its origin to the piety and munificence of the nobleman of whose character we have only sketched the outline, extended from Whitsun-court, on the west of the present church, to St. James'-Barton; and in commodiousness and convenience, as well as in extent, seemed to possess every requisite of a splendid and affluent establishment. It was inhabited by monks of the Benedictine order, but of what number their foundation consisted has not been recorded. This priory was constituted by its founder a cell to the monastery of Tewkesbury, and continued subject to its jurisdiction till the dissolution of religious houses. Few circumstances in its history have been preserved, even its ruins have long since disappeared, and the space which it occupied has been assigned to other purposes. Recently a portion of this space has been appropriated to the erection of a school house, for the education of the children of indigence. The philanthropist will hope that this is a happy revolution, and that the spot in

which the triumph of ignorance and superstition was consummated, will henceforth be instrumental in disseminating the blessings of civilization, and in accelerating the progress of intellect.

The church of St. James has undergone many alterations, and exhibits in its exterior, as well as interior, several varieties of that style which characterises ecclesiastical architecture. In the interior, the semi-circular arches of the aisles supported by massive circular columns, are interesting specimens of Saxon architecture: and the recent alterations in its exterior are intended to approximate to the pointed style, but adorned with ornaments in what is denominated the modern taste.

Previously to a description of the monuments connected with this church which seem most worthy of notice, it deserves to be recorded that the unfortunate Princess Eleanor, sister to Prince Arthur, and usually styled the "Damsel of Britanny," was buried in the chapel of St. James's priory, after having been detained a prisoner in Bristol castle during the greater part of her life by John, the murderer of her brother, and the usurper of her rights as heiress to the English throne. Her remains were removed in 1241 to the nunnery of

Ambresbury, in Wiltshire, by a charter of licence from Henry III.

Near the altar is a splendid monument inscribed to the memory of Sir Charles Somerset, knight; on a scroll in the tablet of which is the following inscription: " Sir Charles Somerset, knight, fifth son to the Right Honourable Henry Earl of Worcester, and standard bearer unto her Majesties honourable band of gentlemen pensioners, who married Eme, widow of Giles Morgan, of Newport, Esq. daughter and co-heiress to Henry Brayne, Esq. by whom he had one sole daughter, first married to Ratcliff Gerrard, Esq. and afterward to Edward Fox, Esq. He deceased the 11th day of March, Anno Domini 1598, being of the age of 64 years, who lieth here entombed, with his wife Eme, who departed Anno Domini 1590."

Against the west wall is a monument bearing names which interested us, and we transcribe them because we think they may interest some of our readers: " To Mary Scandrett, daughter of George Dighton, wife of Captain Christopher Scandrett, who died December the 20th, 1737, aged 66; with Christopher, Mary, and George, their children."

In the church-yard is an altar tomb bearing on

its tablets inscriptions of peculiar interest, but which are now scarcely legible.* We are not certain that we have decyphered them with accuracy, but we were anxious to rescue them from entire oblivion, and we have marked the word respecting which we were most uncertain. On one tablet is—

H. S. E.
Quod mortale fuit
SAMUELIS BURY, SS. E. M.
Viri eximiis dotibus ornati
Qui omnes sacri muneris partes
Felicissime præstitit;
Cognatis benignus, fidus amicis,
Cunctis benevolus;
Morum gravitatem summa dulcedine
Ac modestia temperavit.
Ob. VI. Martii. A.D. MDCCXXIX.
Ætatis suæ LXVII.

On the other is—

Hic placide dormit
ELIZABETHA BURY,
Perchara æque ac cultissima consors
Samuelis Bury, V. D. M.

* It is certainly desirable that some plan should be adopted to exempt monumental inscriptions from the influence of time and chance, and we have often thought that this plan would be adequate to the purpose.—Let a *printed* copy of every inscription, furnished at the expence of the individual who erects the monument, be provided, and let it be pasted into a book kept for the purpose. In churches these books should be deposited in the vestry, and arranged according to their dates; in dissenting places of worship they might be preserved with the records of the society. To render the plan perfect, *all* inscriptions should be admitted, and the books in which they were contained should be at all times *accessible*.

Lepidus* docta, pie festiva, in exemplum nata
Dum mens pia abiit ad plures,
Obiit V. Id. Maij. A.D. MDCCXX. Ætat LXXVI.

TRANSLATIONS.

Beneath is deposited
All that was mortal
of
The Reverend SAMUEL BURY.
A man eminently gifted
With the powers of intellect,
Which he dedicated to the successful discharge
of all the duties of the christian ministry.
His conduct was distinguished
by
Benignity to his relations,
Fidelity to his friends,
And by the exercise of general benevolence.
In him
Affability and condescension
were united with
Gravity of manners.
He died in 1729, in the 67th year of his age.

Here sleeps in peace
ELIZABETH BURY,
The beloved and accomplished consort
Of the Reverend Samuel Bury.
She was eminent in learning;
But the cheerfulness
of her piety,
Furnished a perfect model for imitation,
And marked the whole of her progress towards
The regions of immortality.
She died in 1720, in the 76th of her age.

* Concerning this word we have considerable doubts.

Elizabeth Bury was no less distinguished by the powers of her intellect, than by the extent of her acquisitions. She lived in an age in which learning was scarcely accessible to her sex, yet was she critically skilled both in French and in Hebrew, and profoundly read in history, both ancient and modern. She possessed no inconsiderable acquaintance with natural philosophy, and was skilled both in mathematics and in heraldry. She had studied anatomy and medicine, that she might possess the ability of alleviating the sufferings of the indigent, and her acquisitions in these departments of knowledge procured her high encomiums from some of the most eminent practitioners of her age. But it was the undiminished ardour of her piety which formed the peculiar characteristic of Mrs. Bury. Her diary, which she appears to have kept without interruption for upwards of fifty years, bears ample testimony to the pure and sublime pleasures which she experienced in the cultivation of a devotional temper. In the account of her life, afterwards published by her husband, selections from this diary were included,* and to it Dr. Watts alludes in the

* The title to this volume, now become scarce, is—"An account of the life and death of Mrs. Elizabeth Bury, who died May 11th, 1720, aged 76, chiefly collected out of her own diary, together with her funeral sermon, preached at Bristol, May 22d, 1720, by the Rev. Mr. William Tong, and her elegy by the Rev. Mr. I. Watts."

The present St. John's church is a small structure which derived its origin from Walter Frampton, an opulent merchant, who flourished about the middle of the fourteenth century. Of the biography of Frampton, nothing more is known than that he thrice enjoyed the honour of the chief magistracy in Bristol, and that at his death he was buried in St. John's church. Even these particulars, scanty as they are, are gathered from the inscription on his tomb: "Hic jacet corpus Gualteri Frampton, mercatoris et hujus ecclesiæ fundatoris terque villæ Bristolliæ mayoris, 1357." Beneath are deposited the remains of Walter Frampton, merchant, the founder of this church, and thrice mayor of the city of Bristol, 1357.

Near the tomb of Frampton is an inscription which deserves notice: "Hic jacet Thomas Rowley, quondam mercator et vicecomes hujus villæ Bristolliæ, qui quidem Thomas obiit 23d January, A.D. 1478, et Margeret uxor quæ obiit A.D. 1470." Beneath is deposited Thomas Rowley,

history of the progress of the plague at Eyam, in Derbyshire, in 1666, and an interesting delineation of a superior mind dedicating itself to its duties amidst the ravages of disease and of death. This sacrifice was made by Mr. Mompesson, then rector of Eyam, whose name ought to be transmitted to a distant posterity as a perfect model of christian philanthropy.


THE ASTOR LIBRARY
NY



Drawn by F. Bird. Published by Wm. Sheppard, Exchange, Bristol. Engraved by J.

ST JOHN'S GATE,
Bristol.

formerly a merchant and sheriff of Bristol, who died on the 23d of January, 1478; together with Margaret, his wife, who died in 1470. In the *crypt* under this church are several ancient tombs, one is of alabaster. It is of superior elegance for the age in which it was erected, and is conjectured to have been dedicated to the memory of Thomas Rowley.

The arch and tower of St. John's are curious and interesting objects. Two statues still adorn this tower, which till very lately, were inscribed with the names of Brennus and Belinus, the reputed founders of Bristol. Of what age these statues are it is not easy to determine, though it is scarcely possible that they could be prior to the rebuilding of the church and tower by Frampton; and highly probable that they were executed posterior to 1480, about which period the exploits of these heroes began to be generally associated with the origin of Bristol. These associations derived their authority principally from William of Worcester, who, as well as the Kalendaries, had received the fictions of Geoffery of Monmouth as historical narratives.

Connected with the history of St. John's church is the existence and the story of the far-famed T. Rowleie, who, according to Chatterton, "was a secular priest of St. John's," and of whom he affirms

that "his merit as a biographer and historiographer is great, as a poet still greater; some of his pieces would do honour to Pope; and the person under whose patronage they may appear to the world will lay the Englishman, the antiquary, and the poet under an eternal obligation." Of the probability of the existence of such a person as Rowley we have already spoken,* and we shall now only add, that a Thomas Rowley is said by Mr. Barrett to have been chauntry priest at Redcliff. But the time in which he lived, and the particulars of his history have not been recorded.

In connexion with St. John's tower, on the west, was the ancient church of St. Laurence. The period of its erection is unknown, and every circumstance relative to its history is now buried in obscurity, except that the church was demolished, and the parish incorporated with St. John's in the year 1580. That the church of St. Laurence contained some memorials which were designed to perpetuate the names of the eminent, the adventurous, or the wealthy, of the ages that are gone, is probable; but it is certain that these memorials and their subjects are now equally consigned to everlasting silence.

* In the note p. p. 67—68, Vol. II.

St. Paul's church is a modern structure, which was finished in 1794. It has been admired for the taste displayed in its ornaments, and it has been asserted that they are characterized by a chaste simplicity, peculiarly appropriate in buildings dedicated to the purposes of a religion, the spirit of which is incompatible with every species of ostentation. For ourselves we shall freely confess, that the impression produced upon our minds by the interior of St. Paul's was by no means in unison with these sentiments. The exceptions which we made to the interior of St. Michael's church* are in a great measure applicable to St. Paul's. To repeat these exceptions might be considered invidious, but not to make them would appear to us a dereliction of duty, because it would be a departure from that strict line of impartiality which we have endeavoured to make the rule of our conduct. The time we hope is not far distant, when a recurrence to classical† standards of excellency in the several species of architecture, will render our eccle-

* Page 235, Vol. II.

† Perhaps the term which we have chosen to adopt may render it necessary to observe here, that in our opinion Salisbury Cathedral and Westminster Abbey are classical standards of excellency in ecclesiastical architecture. For the several varieties in this species of architecture, the reader may consult Dr. Milner's treatise on the Ecclesiastical Architecture of the middle ages; and a work entitled "Essays on Gothic Architecture," published by Taylor.

siastical and other public buildings such as will do honour to the taste of the age in which they were erected, and afford to a distant posterity instructive monuments of genius and of art.

Entering the church by the west door, we were impressed by the simplicity of a grave on the left, on which are two urns, and one is inscribed—

SUSAN SMALL,
August 30th, 1810.

In the north, a small and plain tablet bears the following inscription:

In a vault near this place,
are deposited
the remains of HANNAH SOPHIA,
wife of ROBERT PEACH, Esq. of Northampton,
and many years a resident of this City.
She died on the 10th of March, 1810, aged 69.
Also the remains of the said ROBERT PEACH,
who died on the 21st of March, 1813, aged 85.

They were worthy examples of conjugal and parental affection,
and are sincerely regretted by their surviving
children and friends.

Near the altar is a monument from a design by Flaxman, and executed by Rossi, bearing the following inscriptions:

Sacred to the Memory of
SPENCER THOMAS VASSAL, Esq. Lieut.-Col. of the 38th Regt.
who, after 28 years of active and unremitting Service,
during which he had justly acquired a high military reputation,
was mortally wounded
at the storming of Monte Video, in South America,
on the 3d of February, 1807, at the moment
he had conducted his intrepid followers within the walls of that fortress,
and expired on the 7th of the same month.
His beloved remains,
brought to England by the companions of his victory,
are deposited near this spot—
Where to record her own, her children's, and her country's loss—
She, who was the wedded and happy witness of his private worth,
has caused this monument to be erected.

Stranger, if e'er you honoured Sidney's fame,
If e'er you lov'd Bayard's spotless name,
Then on this Marble gaze with tearful eyes,
For kindred merit here with VASSAL lies.
But far more blest than France' or England's pride,
In the great Hour of Conquest VASSAL died.
While still undaunted in the glorious strife,
Content he purchased Victory with life,
And nobly, careless of his own distress,
He bade his mourning comrades onward press;
Bade them (the Hero, Victor o'er the man,)
Complete the Conquest which his Sword began;
Then proudly smiled amidst the pangs of death,
While thanks for Victory fill'd his parting breath.

The subject of the painting over the altar is "Paul preaching at Athens." It is indeed an interesting picture, exhibiting unquestionable proofs

that it is the production of genius, combined with taste and skill in the art. On a tablet in an adjoining vestry, is an inscription which we gladly transcribe, because the names which it records will always deserve most honourable mention, for taste in discriminating the powers of an artist, whose subsequent productions have entitled him to a distinguished place among the most eminent of his contemporaries. Bristol has acquired a pre-eminence as a city in which genius and talents have been produced; and we hope that the time is come, or rapidly approaching, when it will obtain distinction for its skill in discovering merit, and its disposition united to the ability it already possesses, to foster that merit, and to assist it in its progress to maturity. The tablet we have mentioned bears this inscription:

The painting
Placed over
The Communion Table,
A Masterly Performance
Of Mr. EDWARD BIRD,
Is the gift of
The Rev. JOSEPH ATWELL SMALL, D.D.
ABRAHAM LUDLOW, M.D.
JOHN CAVE,
STEPHEN CAVE,
BENJAMIN BAUGH,
WILLIAM WEARE,
WILLIAM BATTERSBY,
ROBERT BUSH,
} Esqrs.
29th Sept: 1798.

The church which is now usually denominated St. Peter's was originally dedicated to the holy apostles, St. Peter and St. Paul. It seems anciently to have belonged to Bristol castle, and probably derived its foundation from the zeal or the piety of one of the early governors of that fortress. It is conjectured to be of considerable antiquity, since it is represented to have existed prior to the Norman conquest; but the date of its erection and the name of its founder are together consigned to oblivion.

St. Peter's was among the churches of Bristol which Robert Fitzhaymon bestowed upon the abbey of Tewkesbury. This grant was confirmed in 1106 by Henry I.; and in subsequent periods frequent mention is made of the church of St. Peter of "BRICSTON," and "BRICSTOU;" but no circumstance of interest has been connected with these notices, and consequently no regret can be excited that they are passed over in silence.

Among the names which this church has been the means of preserving from oblivion, that of John Esterfield may deserve the tribute of a passing mention. He died on the 18th of February 1507, on which day it was intended that his obiit should be annually solemnized in the church of

St. Peter, for ever. Of his talents or his virtues no record has been preserved; but it is known that he was distinguished among his contemporaries, since he reached the highest civic honours which Bristol could confer, and he is represented to have been a merchant of eminence. Conjecture must finish the portrait, of which this is scarcely an outline; but conjecture itself must fail in determining what degree of the prosperity or happiness of the present generation is derived from the enterprize or the exertions of John Esterfield; for though his name is almost consigned to forgetfulness, candour bids us hope that even he has contributed to ameliorate the age in which we live.*

A splendid monument near the altar is consecrated to the memory of Robert Aldworth, who is entitled to distinguished notice as a merchant of the first rank of the age in which he lived. Aldworth was born in 1561. He is represented as having enjoyed the wealth which he acquired from his

* If it be true that the amelioration of the human race has constantly advanced, and that its retrogressions have existed only in appearance, it follows that every individual must have contributed in some degree to that amelioration. Without determining the accuracy of these conjectures, speculations founded upon them may combine with other feelings to give additional interest to places of sepulture, and may produce a beneficial influence in the formation of the character.

extensive mercantile transactions, merely because it furnished him with the means of alleviating the distresses of the indigent. His career was extended to the 73d year of his age, and he died in 1634. From the inscriptions on his monument, the following in English may deserve a transcription :

In a vault under this monument
Lies, with MARTHA his Wife, ROBERT ALDWORTH,
Merchant and Alderman of this city;
Who, leaving no issue, bequeathed all his estate to Giles Elbridge,
Merchant, likewise of this city; who married his Niece.

This monument was repaired and beautified at the charge of
Dowager Lady Smith.
1807.

In the vault in which the remains of Aldworth were deposited, is also interred John Elbridge, Esq. upon whose memory rests the splendor which is derived from beneficent activity, resulting from his exertions and his contributions towards the erection and establishment of the Bristol Infirmary. His contributions to this object during his life amounted to at least £1500. His exertions were indefatigable, and so important, that without any injustice to those of his contemporaries who co-operated with him in forwarding the institution, Mr. Elbridge may be considered the founder of the charity. The old Bristol Infirmary was erected about the year 1736. While he lived, Mr. Elbridge supported

it almost at his individual expence, and at his death, which occurred in 1739, bequeathed £5000 towards a fund for its future maintenance. Since his death, many benevolent individuals have emulated his noble example, and in 1787 it was resolved to rebuild the Infirmary upon an extended plan. One wing was finished in 1788, and the centre was next erected. The western wing has been recently completed; and the whole building is highly honorable to the liberality of the citizens.

Near the tomb of Aldworth and the Elbridges, is an elegant monument to the memory of one of the Newtons, of Barr's Court. No pious descendants seem solicitous to preserve this monument from decay; while the adjoining tomb of Aldworth has been thrice repaired within a century. If any feeling be entitled to respect, it surely is that which induces us to preserve the tombs of our ancestors from dilapidation, and thus to evince our veneration for their memory and our desire to emulate their virtues. It should however be remembered that in repairing and beautifying monuments, as well as churches, the object should be to restore them as nearly as possible to their original state, that thus they may become testimonies of the taste or the skill of the age in which they were erected.

It has already been mentioned that the remains of Savage were deposited in St. Peter's churchyard.* The pen of Johnson has consecrated his name to immortality; but no frail memorial has been erected to "protect his bones from insult," or to preserve the memory of the spot in which they moulder from oblivion.

The church which is dedicated to the Saints Philip and Jacob is of some antiquity, and appears, like the church of St. James, to have been originally a chapel to a priory. This fact is mentioned incidentally by William of Worcester,† and the priory is conjectured to have belonged to religionists of the order of St. Benedict. Of the priory to which this church‡ was attached, the history has altogether perished, and the name of the man to whose piety or munificence it owed its origin and the events of which it was probably the scene, are equally enveloped in impenetrable obscurity.

The members of the abbey of Tewkesbury having complained to their diocesan, the bishop of

* Vol. II. page 55. † Itin. de Wor. p. 247.

‡ The chancel of the present church is evidently more ancient than the body of the church, and has the appearance of having been a distinct and complete building. It is therefore highly probable that this was the ancient chapel of the priory.

Worcester, that their hospitality to strangers had reduced them to comparative indigence, he appropriated to them the revenues of this church, that they might be the better able to exercise their usual liberality. They were, however, directed to provide for the celebration of religious worship in this church, in the same manner as it had been performed previously to their acquisition of its revenues.

Connected with the history of St. Philip's church, the following circumstance relative to Peter de la Mare, constable of Bristol castle, in 1279, deserves some degree of notice, because it peculiarly tends to illustrate the manners of the age in which it took place. It appeared that he had seized, and finally put to death, William de Lay, who had fled for refuge to the church-yard of St. Philip's. With what crime De Lay was charged no mention is made; but De La Mare was prosecuted in the ecclesiastical court of the bishopric of Worcester, for having violated the right of sanctuary, and thus infringed the privilege of the church. Being found guilty of this charge, he and his accomplices were sentenced to walk in procession from the church of the Friars Minor in Lewin's Mead to that of St. Philip and Jacob, on four market-days in four successive weeks, with naked

backs, that they might receive discipline from the hands of the monks, the appropriate representatives of the violated dignity of holy church. La Mare was, moreover, enjoined to build a stone cross,* at the expence of at least one hundred shillings; to furnish revenues for the feeding of one hundred poor around it on a certain day, annually; and finally to provide, during his life, a priest for the celebration of mass in whatever place the bishop should appoint. Such were the pains and the penalties which insured implicit obedience to the burthensome impositions of a cruel and capricious superstition. But the day-star of science has dissipated the mists which concealed the deformity of every superstition that, arrogating for its votaries exclusive salvation, seems to inculcate a spirit of persecution; because the period appears to be approaching, when the exercise of Christian philanthropy shall be the only bond of Christian union, and when there shall be no contention, except who shall be most active in disseminating virtue and happiness.

Among the monuments in St. Philip's church we found only one which appeared in any degree

* William of Worcester mentions this cross thus: "Altæ crucis prope fossam castri Bristoll." From which it would appear that the cross was erected in the vicinity of the castle.

worthy of transcription, and even that derives its interest rather from the names it bears than from any other circumstance.

In remembrance
of
Her piety,
Filial obedience,
Conjugal affection,
Integrity of heart,
and
Amiableness of manners,
This monument is erected
by
ISAAC ELTON the Younger, Esq.
To
SARAH, his Wife,
Daughter of Mr. Samuel Peach,
Merchant, of this city;
Who died, universally lamented,
the 15th of December 1763,
In the 22d year of her age.

In memory also of the above-named
ISAAC ELTON, Esq.
Who departed this life, 31st March 1790,
Aged 51.

The church of St. Philip and Jacob contained two chauntries; one of which was founded by John Kemys, and the other by Robert Forthey. Of the biography of these individuals no particulars have been preserved; and these chauntries,

which should have conferred perpetuity upon their memories, were sequestered in the reign of Edward the Sixth.

The present church of St. Thomas was finished in 1793, and was built upon the site of an ancient fabric which was dedicated to St. Thomas the Martyr. It appears to have been a chapel of ease to Bedminster, from the period of its erection. This chapel is mentioned in authentic documents as early as the twelfth century, but no circumstances in its history, either instructive or interesting, have been preserved.

Among the eminent persons whose memories are associated with the ancient church of St. Thomas, the family of the Canynges deserves peculiar notice. It appears that the cemetry of the family was in the chapel of St. Mary, in St. Thomas church, previously to the completion of St. Mary Redcliffe. Here were buried William the grandfather, and John the father, of our distinguished Canynges. William died about the year 1398, and John in 1405. No monument to their memory has been mentioned; and if any was erected, it has not escaped the general destruction of these "frail memorials" which was occasioned by the rebuilding of the church.

The architecture of the present church contains little that will offend a correct taste, though it combines nothing to excite admiration. It is a specimen of what has been denominated the modern style of ecclesiastical architecture, and considered as a whole, may perhaps be appealed to as an example of the effect which that style is capable of producing, either in exciting those emotions of reverential awe which ought to be inseparably associated with the place consecrated to the worship of the Deity, or in awakening those feelings of devotion which, while they kindle in the soul the purest aspirations for moral excellence, communicate to it a foretaste of that felicity which is enjoyed by "the spirits of just men made perfect" in the regions of blessedness.

The monuments in St. Thomas' church are few; and among them the only inscription which we were prompted to transcribe is the following.

Sacred to the Memory
Of THOMAS BERJEW, late of the Parish of St. Nicholas,
Apothecary;
Who adorned the purest Integrity of Heart
with a genuine
Simplicity of manners,
and the rectitude of whose life
gave the surest evidence
of the goodness of his principles.

This monument,
(an expressive testimony of her regret,)
is erected to the kindest husband,
relative and friend,
by his grateful widow.

In connexion with St. Thomas' church, it deserves observation that Sir Simon de Burton, who was probably the founder of the church of St. Mary Redcliffe, is buried in an almhouse which he founded in its vicinity, and which still bears his name. This fact is mentioned by Leland, who says that "the almshouse by St. Thomas church is called Burton's almhouse. Burton, mayor of the the town, and founder, is buried in it."* Few particulars in the biography of Burton have been preserved, and even those few, it is presumed, will be better narrated when we treat of the history of Redcliffe church.

Temple church derives its name from the Knights Templars, who were its founders, and who possessed considerable estates, with unbounded influence, in this part of Bristol.† This religious order of knights was instituted at Jerusalem in the beginning of the twelfth century, for the defence of the Holy Sepulchre, and for the protection of Christian pilgrims. They were first called 'The

* Leland, vol. vii. p. 89. † History of Bristol, vol. ii. p. 80.

Poor of the Holy City,' and afterwards assumed the appellation of the Templars, because their house was near the Temple. The order was founded by Baldwin II. then king of Jerusalem, with the concurrence of the Pope. The principal articles of their rule were, "That they should hear the holy office throughout every day; or that when their military duties should prevent this, they should supply it by a certain number of paternosters; that they should abstain from flesh four days in the week, and on Fridays from eggs and milk-meats; and that they should neither hunt nor fowl." Every knight was also obliged to have three horses, and was allowed one esquire.

After the ruin of the kingdom of Jerusalem, about 1186, they spread themselves through Germany and other countries of Europe, to which they were invited by the liberality of the Christians. In 1228, the order acquired stability by being confirmed in the council of Troyes, and subjected to a rule of discipline drawn up by St. Bernard. In every nation they had a particular governor, called Master of the Temple, or of the militia of the Temple. Their grand-master had his residence at Paris. They originally wore a white habit, with red crosses sewed upon their cloaks, as a mark of distinction.

The Order of the Templars flourished for some ime, and acquired, by the valour of its knights, mmense riches and an eminent degree of military enown; but as their prosperity increased, their vices were multiplied; and their arrogance, luxury, and cruelty, rose at last to such a monstrous height, that their privileges were revoked, and their order suppressed, with the most terrible circumstances of infamy and severity. This event took place in 1312. A part of the rich revenues they possessed was bestowed upon other orders, especially on the Hospitallers, or Knights of St. John, now of Malta; and the rest confiscated to the respective treasuries of the sovereign princes in whose dominions their possessions were situated.*

The period in which Temple church was founded is not determined, but it appears to have been built at different periods, and has been frequently repaired. The most ancient part of the present church seems to be the chapel at the extremity of the north aisle, in which is a tablet bearing the following inscription.

"This chapel, and a piece of ground thereto belonging, granted in the reign of Edward the First, to the company of Weavers, for their use for ever, 1299."

* Encyclopedia Britannica, article 'Templars.'

William of Worcester mentions Temple church in high terms of commendation; and from his cursory remarks it appears that the tower was built in 1460.* Brunius, who wrote about 1576,† mentions this church, and notices the inclination of its tower, which was ascertained in 1772 to be three feet nine inches from the perpendicular. This inclination has certainly no tendency to convey to the mind of the spectator an idea of stability; but since it has existed so long in its present state, there seems to be no reason for apprehending that it will suddenly tumble to ruin by any unexpected or violent concussion.

Among the monuments in Temple church, a tablet in the north aisle deserves notice, which bears this inscription.

Sacred to the memory
of the
Rev. JOSEPH EASTERBROOK,
Many years Vicar of this Parish,
and Ordinary of Newgate.
A faithful and laborious
Minister of the Gospel,
Whose life corresponded with his profession;
And having finished his course with joy,
Departed to his eternal rest,

* Itin. de Wor. p. 228. † Theatrum Urbium.

On Friday, the 21st January, 1791,
In the 40th year of his age.

The Inhabitants of this Parish,
Desirous of transmitting to posterity
Their cordial esteem for a character
So worthy of imitation,
Have caused this Monument to be erected.

To the piety and the benevolence of Mr. Easterbrook's character, the general esteem and approbation of his contemporaries bear an honourable and an indubitable testimony. It is true that the credulity which induced him to countenance the imposture of George Lukins, the pretended Demoniac, gave grounds to suspect a weakness of intellect, and rendered both his name and his character the object of ridicule. But it should also be remembered, that this was as much the credulity of the age as of the man;* and that it requires the exertion of a vigour of intellect conceded only to a few, to rise superior to the prejudices of education, and to be able to reject opinions which are held sacred by a vast majority of our contemporaries. That Mr. Easterbrook was

* On the subject of Demoniacal possessions, the reader will do well to consult Farmer's "Essay on the Demoniacs of the New Testament," a work in which erudition and patient research are combined with that candid liberality which unfortunately is so rarely found in theological controversy.

not able to do this, is no reflection on his memory, which is still affectionately cherished by those who knew and appreciated his moral worth.

On the right of the entrance is a tablet bearing inscriptions which at once appeal to "all the soul of feeling," and which it is impossible to peruse without sympathising in the mourner's sorrow. The tablet is thus inscribed:

In a vault in the adjacent church-yard
are deposited the remains of
CÆCILIA ELWYN,
And of CÆCILIA ELEANOR, her daughter;
Cæcilia was the eldest daughter of Thomas Eagles, Esq. Collector of
the Customs of this port, and wife of William Brame Elwyn,
of Queen's College, Oxford, LL. D. Barrister at Law,
And at the time of her decease, Recorder of Deal, in Kent.
She died June 3d, 1811, aged 34.
Cæcilia Eleanor was their only child. She survived her mother
but nine days, and died in her 15th year.
Pulmonary disease was fatal to them both.

Ουκουν τα δ' αισχρα σι Βλεποντι μεν φιλω
Χρημασθ' οπως δολωλε μα χρημασθ στι.

EURIP. *Hec.*

Thou, of whose home some vestige here below
Death yet has spared, amidst his waste of woe;
With whom some fond endearment stays and cheers
A husband's sorrows, and a father's tears!
Survey the story of this letter'd stone,
And learn from larger grief to bear thy own.

THE ASTOR LIBRARY
NY



G. Holmes del. Published by W. Sheppard Exchange. Bristol. Augustus

St MARY REDCLIFF,
seen from the Back.

To thee, perhaps, some tender child has proved
A living emblem of a wife beloved—
Inspir'd new hopes as years were stealing on,
Nor left thee here unsolac'd, and alone—
Won from thy heart despair's o'erwhelming gloom,
And brought with smiles her mother from the tomb.

But, O beloved! to you my thoughts return,
You, once their fondest objects—still their bourn.
The world may call that cherish'd feeling vain,
Which leaves recorded here a private pain,
Seeks from remoter days a stranger's sigh,
And asks some future father's sympathy;
Yet he, that mourns his home for ever gone,
Finds ease and solace from this faithful stone.
To Her 'tis due, who from her own short skein
Wound many a thread to soothe her Daughter's pain,
Who in death's grasp a mother's toils supplied,
And, trembling for her dying patient, died.
Heaven's best reward on Earth repaid this care,
Bestow'd on life's last hour, peace, hope, and prayer.
To thee too due, my Child! in whose pure mind
Truth dwelt with early Piety enshrin'd,
Faith stript of terror the Destroyer's hour,
And, as warm summer ripens spring's weak flower,
Open'd thy worth, inspir'd Devotion's flame,
And breathing fervour o'er thy wasted frame,
Sublim'd thy virtues:—Heaven approv'd, and gave
A light beyond the darkness of the grave.

No church in Bristol, perhaps none in the kingdom, has greater claims to the attention of the topographer and the historian than that of St. Mary Redcliffe. Its antiquity, the beauty of its architec-

ture, and the interesting circumstances connected with its history, entitle it to peculiar notice. But Redcliffe church is also associated with the enterprises of genius, for its name has been blended with the reputation of Rowley, of Canynge, and of Chatterton. It is therefore always visited with enthusiasm by the lover of poetry and the admirer of art; and when the interesting fabric shall have mouldered into ruins, even those will be trodden with veneration, as sacred to the recollection of genius of the highest order.

Redcliffe-church has consequently been the subject of no ordinary degree of attention. Its history has exercised the ability of men of letters, and its architectural beauties have employed the skill of some of the most eminent in the arts. Among these, Britton, for his "Historical and Architectural Essay, relative to Redcliffe Church," has deserved well of every lover of ecclesiastical architecture. This Essay is an invaluable addition to the topography of Bristol, and highly honourable to the taste, skill, and ability of its author. From his work* we have extracted the particulars of

* 'An Historical and Architectural Essay, relating to Redcliffe-Church, Bristol; illustrated with Plans, Views and Architectural Details; including an Account of the Monuments and Anecdotes of the

our narrative; and to it we refer our readers for more extended information in respect to Redcliffe church.

Redcliffe, according to Barrett,* is proved by many "ancient deeds" to have been a parish of great antiquity, and originally formed part (as it does at present) of the manor of Bedminster.†

Notwithstanding the deeds to which he thus refers were in all probability the gift of Chatterton, yet, as some of those documents are quoted in the original Latin, and as the evidence of Chatterton's

Eminent Persons interred within its walls; also, an Essay on the Life and Character of Thomas Chatterton. By J. Britton, F. S. A. London, 1813.'

* History and Antiquities of the City of Bristol, p. 566.

† The ecclesiastical history of Redcliffe may be considered peculiar, if not truly singular. It constituted a part, or member, of the parish of Bedminster, is in the diocese of Bristol, and is a prebend to the cathedral of Salisbury. This prebend comprehends Redcliffe, with the parishes of Bedminster, Abbots' Leigh, and St. Thomas, adjoining Redcliffe; yet the parochial regulations and ordinances are held distinct and separate from each other, and each is governed by its own church-wardens, &c. The living of Bedminster is both a rectory and a vicarage, and, as prebend, the incumbent is patron of all the other livings. He is nominated by the bishop of Salisbury. The ecclesiastical edifice of Redcliffe is also of a peculiar nature and description: it is easier to name it negatively than positively, for it is not strictly either a parish-church, conventual church, collegiate church, cathedral-church, or chapel.

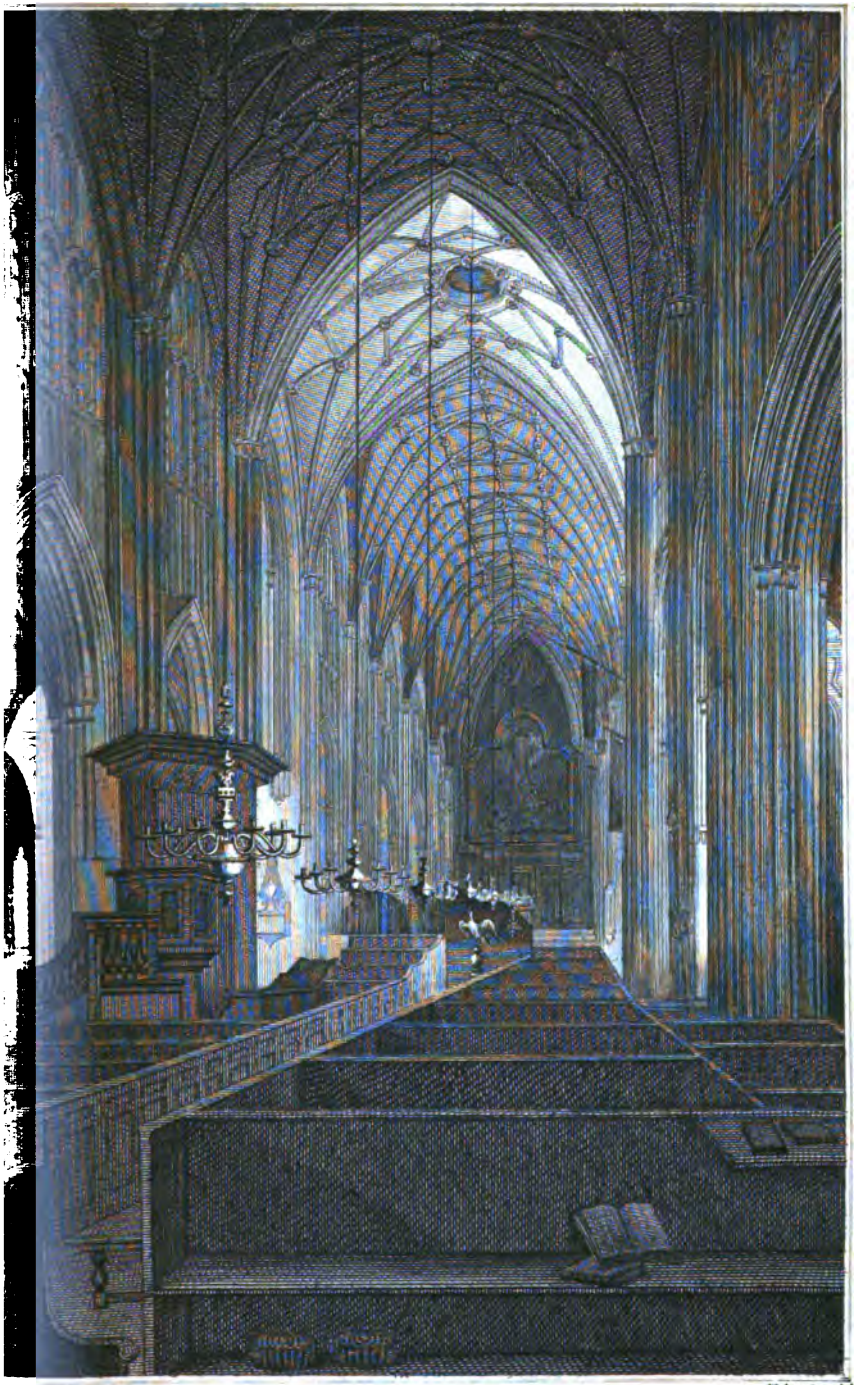
deceptions does not apply to any of these a[illegible] ties in particular, their authenticity canno[illegible] be disputed. "Radcliff," says Camden,† "[illegible] suburb, was joined to the city by a stone-bri[illegible] so thick set with houses, that it seemed a street rather than a bridge. This part is inclosed within the walls, and the inhabitants are free of the city."

He immediately adds, "Among the fairest of churches, is St. Mary de Redcliffe, without the walls, with a grand ascent of steps; the whole so spacious and well built, with an arched roof of stone, and a lofty steeple, as to exceed, in my opinion, all the parish churches of England that I have seen."

Leland says, that "St. Sprite's chapell, in Radclef church-yard, was ons a paroche afore the building of Radclyfe new church;"‡ and William of Worcester, who was a native of Bristol, and lived in the time of Henry VI. calls St. Sprite's "an ancient chapel, near Redcliffe church." It appears very certain, that an ancient religious edifice was standing on or near the site of the present church, anterior to the erection of the present building.

* Gough's edition of Camden's Britannica, vol. i. p. 63. ed. 1791.

† Itinerary, vol. vii. p. 86. Barrett supposes that St. Sprite's chapel was also called "Lamyngton's Lady Chapel."



Published by John Agg Aug.st 1808. Broadmead, Bristol.

W. Angus sculp.

A View of the Interior of the Church of
St. Mary Redcliff, Bristol.

THE ASTOR LIBRARY
NY

Several grants of land towards repairing the original structure, are referred to by Barrett, as being in his own possession: and indulgences were issued by different bishops, on condition that the persons to whom they were granted would "devoutly visit the church of the blessed Mary of Radcliffe, in Bristol, and there charitably contribute towards the repair of the same, and pray for the souls of those there interred." The indulgences are by John, Bishop of Ardfert, dated at Bristol, 1232:—Peter Quivell, Bishop of Exeter, dated at "Radclyve," 1287;—David, Archbishop of Cassel, dated at Bristol in 1246;—Christianus Episcopus Hymelacensis, dated at Bristol, 1246;—and Robert, Bishop of Bath and Wells, dated 1278. All these documents are said to have been found in Canynge's chests; and notwithstanding they were the gift of Chatterton to Barrett, their number, the difficulties that would have prevented their execution by the want of specific evidence to their fabrication; and their coincidence with other documents, to which it does not appear that Chatterton had access, are in favour of their reception as genuine authorities.

The foundation of the Great Church, erected on the site of the one thus mentioned, is ascribed

by all parties to Simon de Burton,* who, previously to the commencement of the building, in 1292, had been advanced to the mayoralty of Bristol three times, and enjoyed that dignity twice afterwards; viz. in the years 1304 and 1305.† When another writer therefore, on this subject‡ ascribes the foundation of the church to William Canynge, he confounds the completion of the building with its original erection. It appears that William Canynge, senior, the Mayor of Bristol, completed "the body of Redcliffe church from the cross aisle downwards, and so the church was finished as it now is;"§ and as this was seventy-five years after the dedication of Burton's church, it may be considered to be the finishing of what had been begun and partly accomplished by its founder. It was customary, at that time, for the builder of a church to begin at the east end, or choir-part; which, when finished, was consecrated, and the re-

* Leland, though he mentions Burton as founder of an alm's house, in which he was buried, does not allude to his foundation of the present church.

† MS. in Bib. Bodl. "History of the famous City of Bristol, by James Stewart." MS. 1733.—Gough's Collection, Oxford. MSS. by Hobson, quoted by Barrett.

‡ Hist. Bristol, MS. in the possession of the Rev. T. Dudley Fosbrooke.

§ Barrett, Hist. p. 569.

mainder was gradually prosecuted, either by the original projector or his immediate successors.

Several Wills are mentioned by Barrett, as dated about 1380, in which money is given "for the fabric, and towards repairing the church of Redcliffe:" and among others, that of John Muleward mentions a gift in money, Ad opus Beatæ Mariæ de Radcleve:—"To the work of the blessed Mary of Redcliffe;" which Barrett justly regards as a proof that the work was going on at that time. The subsequent re-edification of the church by the grandson of the William Canynge who first completed it, is involved in much obscurity. Among Mr. Fosbrooke's MSS. is one, stating that in "1441, William Cannings, who was mayor this year, with the help of others, of the worshipful town of Bristow, kept masons and workmen to repair and edifye, cover and glaze the church of Redcliffe, which his grandfather had founded in the reign of Edward the Third."* Stewart coincides with this statement, except with regard to the date, which is one year later. A manuscript, quoted by Barrett, agrees with Stewart as to the date of 1442, in which year Canynge was mayor of Bristol. A manuscript in the Bodleian Library

* MS. Collections for Bristol. See also Barrett, p. 570.

informs us that " the said church having suffered much in a tempest, the above-mentioned William Canynge, a celebrated merchant and public benefactor, in the year 1474,* gave five hundred pounds to the parishioners of Redcliffe, towards repairing the church, and for the maintenance of two chaplains, and two clerks in St. Mary's chapel there, and of two chantry priests." The words of Barrett are, " the same plan was observed by him in rebuilding and restoring to its original beauty, after being thrown down by lightning. The south aisle, where the mischief fell heaviest, seems to have been rebuilt with a somewhat more elevated arch, and in a lighter style than the north; a difference also is between the windows of the north and south aisle."†

From these various statements it would appear, that Canynge having begun and nearly completed the re-edification of the church, his labours were rendered almost useless by the effect of lightning; and that about the year 1445, he repaired the damages, and nearly restored it to the state in which it stood previously to the tempest that threatened its destruction. Barrett says, " that from a deed in Latin by Canynge, dated 6th Edward IV. it

* In Barrett it is dated 1445. † Hist. Bristol. p. 571.

appears he founded, in that year, the chantry of St. Catherine in this church."*

Such is the brief, but very imperfect history of a structure, which it is impossible to contemplate without a powerful impression of the omnipotence of poetical genius. Whether Chatterton, or a priest in the reign of Edward IV. was the author of Ælla, and of several other similar poems, the church of Redcliffe itself, the monuments it contains, and the scenery that surrounds it, owe much of their attraction and interest, to their association with these writings. The tomb of Canynge might have remained the subject of solitary examination to the occasional visitor, had not his name been coupled with that of the real or supposed author of these extraordinary compositions; and though the architectural beauties of the structure might have excited the partial and occasional admiration of the professional student, or the lover of the arts; it is owing to the manuscripts of Rowley, or to the materials of their fabrication, that it has become the object of interesting contemplation to the literary world, and has awakened the enquiries, and exercised the talents, of a Miller, a Bryant, a Warton, a Mathias, and a Southey

* Hist. Bristol, p. 571.

The superstructure of the whole church displays three distinct and different eras of architecture. The middle north porch is certainly the oldest portion, and this corresponds in its pilaster-columns, arches, and mouldings, with the buildings of the thirteenth century. At this age, it appears, that Simon de Burton lived, and was engaged, in 1292, either in constructing a new church or "re-edifying" a former building. Here then we find a part of the edifice, (though certainly only a very small part) correspond with a specific date.

Of a subsequent age and style are the tower and grand northern porch, in both of which we recognise a later species of architecture; while the tracery of the ceilings, the niches, and numerous mouldings, are of much more enriched and elaborate characters than the former specimen. These parts were probably raised in the reign of Edward III by William Canynge, senior.*

In the finishing of the nave, choir, and transepts, we must look for the works of William Canynge, Jun. the rich merchant of Bristol, and

* He is recorded member for Bristol in the years 1364, 1383, and 1384. Barrett's History, p. 151.

dean of Westbury; but here the style is not so strictly in unison with the era. Still, however, we must contemplate the greater part of the church as the workmanship of his time. A more decorated species of architectural design is shewn in the entrance door-way to the vestry; and also in Sir Thomas Medes' monument in the north aisle, the latter of which was probably raised about the year 1486.

Near the south-west angle of the church is a large stone coffin, with a statue in demi-relief on the lid, and beneath it two words in old characters, which Barrett reads, "Joannes Lamyngton." This coffin was placed here in 1766, having been discovered under the west window of St. Sprite's chapel, which formerly stood close to the church, and was demolished at that period. Upon first opening the coffin, the solid parts of the body retained their natural position in a perfect manner, but on being touched they immediately crumbled to dust.

John Lamington is mentioned in Barrett's list of vicars, as having been chaplain of this church in 1393. The same author hazards a conjecture, but upon what grounds he does not state, that St. Sprite's chapel was called Lamyngton's Lady-chapel, before it received its subsequent appellation

from the fraternity of the Holy Ghost, to which society the use of it is said to have been granted in 1383, by the principal or master of the hospital of St. John.*

Near the western entrance is a flat stone with a cross and two words upon it, which are almost obliterated. Several fragments of other flat grave stones, with defaced inscriptions, constitute part of the pavement of the western end of the church, some of them apparently of more ancient date, even than any part of the present edifice.

At the southern extremity of the transept are several monuments of peculiar interest; of which the first is a plain altar tomb; supporting the recumbent figure of a man in sacerdotal robes, with a large scrip, or pocket, attached to the left side. An angel is placed at his head, and a dog, with a large bone in his paws, at his feet. There is no inscription upon it, to mark decidedly the person to whose memory this monument has been erected. Mr. Cole states it to be a *third* tomb to William Canynge; tradition, however, assigns it to his purse-bearer.†

* Barrett's History, p. 596.

† The opinion of Mr. Cole on this subject is extremely doubtful, as it seems very improbable that the same individual should have three

Under a large canopy beneath the centre window, is an altar tomb of stone supporting the recumbent effigies of a man and a woman. The first is dressed in mayor's robes, and the second according to the fashion of the times. The inscription, on the back of this tomb is as follows:

"WILLIAM CANNINGS, ye richest Merchant of ye towne of Bristow, afterwards chosen 5 times Mayor of ye said towne, for the good of the Commonwealth of the same: he was in order of priesthood 7 years, and afterwards Dean of Westbury, and died the 7th Novem. 1474, which said William did build, within the said town of Westbury, a college (with his canons,) and the said William did maintain by space of 8 years, 800 handycraftsmen, besides carpenters and masons, every day 100 men. Besides, King Edward the IVth. had of the said William, 3000 marks for his Peace to be had in 2470 tons of shipping.

"These are the names of his shipping and their burthens:—The Mary Canynges, 400 tons; The Mary & John, 900; The Kathrine, 140; The Little Nicholas, 140; The Kathrine of Boston, 220; The Mary Redcliff, 500; The Galliot, 050; The Mary Batt, 220; The Margaret, 200; A Ship in Ireland, 100.

distinct monuments, all immediately adjoining to each other. The traditional account, on the other hand, most likely approximates to the truth, for though it may not be the monument of the purse-bearer, it is certainly the monument of some person intimately connected with Canynge. If the existence of such a person, as Thomas Rowley, a priest, and the confidential friend of that distinguished character, could be fully ascertained, I should have little hesitation in ascribing it to him. It is, however, certain that Thomas Rowley, a *merchant*, was interred in St. John's Church, in Bristol, where a brass tablet commemorates his name and memory. Cole's MSS. in the British Museum, vol. x. p. 51.

"No age, no time, can wear out well-won fame,
The stones themselves a stately work doth shew,
From senseless grave we ground may men's good name,
And noble minds by ventrous deeds we know.
A lanterne clere setts forth a candele light:
A worthy act declares a worthy wight;
The buildings rare, that here you may behold,
To shrine his bones deserve a tomb of gold.
The famous fabricke, which he here hath donne,
Shines in its sphere as glorious as the Sunne;
What needs more words, the future world he sought,
And set the pomp and pride of this at nought:
Heaven was his aim, let Heaven still be his station,
That leaves such work for others' imitation."

Near this is an altar-tomb on which lies the effigy of a man in priest's robes. The head is shaven, and the hands are raised, as if in the act of devotion. This monument is commonly ascribed to William Canynge, as Dean of Westbury. The head, however, is very different to that on the other tomb; and both have the appearance of being portraits. This presents a very extraordinary face: a long acquiline nose; a narrow projecting chin; high cheek-bones, and very thin cheeks, combine to produce a very singular countenance. At the feet of this statue is the small figure of a man, apparently in great bodily agony, which is a very unusual occurrence. A Latin inscription, on a loose board, is sometimes attached to this tomb. This inscription assigns the tomb to Canynge, but

as it is sometimes attached to the monument last described, as well as this, it cannot be considered of any authority.

Affixed to a column nearly opposite the tomb of Canynge and his lady, is a neat monument, with a Latin inscription, to the memory of Maria, the wife of William Barrett, F. S. A. and author of "The History and Antiquities of Bristol." Mr. Barrett was a man of some learning, and of considerable research. He appears to have devoted the leisure of twenty years of his life to the collecting of materials for his History of Bristol, and every facility seems to have been afforded to his inquiries both by public bodies and by individuals. The mass of materials which he collected appears to have been not only immense, but highly valuable. Mr. Barrett, however, was deficient both in judgment to select from this mass, and taste to arrange and elucidate what he determined to employ. Under these circumstances it can excite no surprise that the "History" disappointed the expectations which had been formed respecting it, and that to read it has been considered a task which few have the courage to accomplish.

Many of the papers which Mr. Barrett had collected were left to Mr. Gapper; those relating

to Chatterton were disposed of to the Rev. Mr. Kerrick, of Cambridge, for Dr. Glynn, and were afterward deposited in the British Museum. Sir John Smyth, of Long Ashton, purchased some MSS. at the sale of Mr. Barrett's effects.

At the eastern end of the north aisle, is a very handsome monument, consisting of an altar-tomb, surmounted by a richly ornamented canopy. Recumbent on the former are effigies of the deceased and his wife, with their heads resting on cushions, and having two figures of angels supporting the pillow. The plinth of the tomb, as well as the back and sides, are covered with pannelling and tracery. Immediately over the tomb, are five crocketed canopies, with pinnacles, &c. and the whole is surmounted with a richly sculptured frieze and parapet. From the imperfect inscription which still remains, it appears, that this monument is dedicated to the memory of Thomas Mede, who was sheriff of Bristol in 1452, and subsequently thrice Mayor of that city. He had a country-seat at Nayland, then called Mede's Place, in the parish of Wraxall and county of Somerset.

Attached to the former monument, and of the same style and character, but without any effigy,

is another to the memory of Philip Mede, the brother of Thomas Mede, whose monument has just been described. He appears to have been several times Mayor of Bristol, and to have represented the City in two parliaments, held at Coventry, and at Westminster, in the thirty-eighth year of the reign of Henry the Sixth. His will is dated Jan. 11th, 1471, and directs his body to be buried at the altar of St. Stephen, in Redcliffe Church.

A small marble slab, at the north-east angle of the transept, is inscribed with the following lines from the pen of Mrs. H. More.

" Near this pillar are deposited the remains of Mrs. FORTUNE LITTLE, widow of Mr. John Little, late of this parish. She died June 28, 1777. Aged 57.

" Oh! could this verse her bright example spread,
And teach the living while it praised the dead;
Then, reader! should it speak her hope divine,
Not to record *her* faith, but strengthen thine;
Then should her ev'ry virtue stand confess'd,
'Till ev'ry virtue kindled in thy breast.
But, if thou slight the monitory strain,
And she has lived to thee, at least, in vain,
Yet let her death an awful lesson give:
The dying Christian speaks to all that live.
Enough for her, that here her ashes rest,
'Till God's own plaudit shall her worth attest.

HANNAH MORE.

The Rev. Thomas Broughton was buried in the north aisle of this Church, in December 1774. He was born in London, July 1704. Bishop Sherlock presented him with the living and prebendship of Bedminster and Redcliffe. He was one of the original writers in the Biographia Britannica, the author of a musical drama, entitled "Hercules," and the Compiler of a Dictionary of All Religions. A plain marble tablet is erected to his memory in the chancel, near the altar.

Attached to a column in the south transept is a flat slab, with a long inscription, from which we learn that it commemorates Sir William Penn, father of the illustrious founder of Pennsylvania The column itself is adorned with banners and with armour. These may be appropriate emblems on the grave of the warrior, of which the sky is the canopy; but here they are evidently misplaced; for they seem to profane the temple which is dedicated to the service of the God of Peace.

At the east-end, over the altar, are three large pictures* by Hogarth,† representing the following

* These were hung up in the church in the year 1757, and are said to have cost 500 guineas, besides the frames. The lofty eastern window is closed up for the purpose of hanging the largest of these paintings.

† More volumes and essays have been published respecting Hogarth

sacred subjects, viz.—1. *The Ascension of Christ*—2. *The High-Priest and Servants sealing the Tomb*—3. *The Three Marys at the Sepulchre.*

It is incompatible with the constitution of man and the qualifications of genius, to excel in different branches of art, or to acquire positive pre-eminence in two distinct departments of science. The productions of Hogarth, among those of several other justly famed artists, serve to illustrate this maxim. In pictures of comic character, rich humour and moral satire, and particularly in displaying the human figure and countenance in its common and popular forms, he certainly excelled all other painters. Many of his pictures were also executed in a masterly style of colouring, grouping and effect. Like the generality of artists, he was occasionally required to paint subjects from ancient and sacred history; but he then wandered

and his works, than of any other ancient or modern artist. Almost every picture that he painted and sketch that he made, has been circulated by means of the graver. He commenced this practice himself, and engraved many of his own pictures. Since his death, both John and Samuel Ireland, Dr. Trusler, Cook, and Nichols, have published numerous annotations on his works, and prints from every subject they could collect. It is singular that only one of the three pictures at Redcliffe has been copied and noticed in these publications; and it is equally singular that this print (in John Ireland's Illustrations) is so inaccurately copied, that it appears as if done from memory rather than after the painting.

out of his element, and at once betrayed a want of judgment and taste. In the three pictures at Redcliffe church this is exemplified: as specimens of colouring, however, they possess much merit, and may be viewed with advantage by the young artist; but in the forms and expression of the figures, and in their attitudes and grouping, we seek in vain for propriety, dignity, or elegance. Immediately over the altar-table is a painting representing *Jesus restoring to Life the daughter of Jairus*, by Henry Tresham, R. A. presented in 1792 to the church by the painter's uncle, Sir Clifton Wintringham, Bart.

Thus have we finished our historical and descriptive notices of the several churches of Bristol. With these have been combined biographical notices of such eminent individuals as are connected with the history of the respective churches. We must not, however, conclude this chapter, without noticing a topic so intimately connected with their history, as their numerous benefactions. The amount of these benefactions it would be difficult, if not impossible, to conjecture; but it must be presumed that they are all applied with the most scrupulous exactness to the respective purposes of charity for which they are intended. It would be well, if in all cases of trust of this

kind, printed statements were annually distributed, by which all who felt interested in the subject might inform themselves, without appearing to act invidiously, of the application of the property which is intended for the alleviation of poverty or for any other purposes of public utility. The men who shall effect this improvement, both in parishes and in corporate bodies, will merit civic crowns for their patriotism and their philanthropy.

Of these and similar charities we think that they create the poverty which they are intended to relieve. They are bounties to indolence and to imprudence. If the wretchedness of poverty be ever annihilated, the poor themselves must combine for its extermination. They will combine for this object when they know that they must depend principally upon themselves; when they have been taught to think and to compare; when they have learned the necessity of foresight, and have been trained to habits of order, of industry, and of economy. When this is accomplished, the wretchedness of poverty will be annihilated, and the benefaction-boards in our churches will become useless; or they will merely be referred to as indubitable proofs of the comparative barbarism of an age that prided itself upon the advances which it had made in civilization.

CONTENTS

OF

CHAPTER THE SEVENTH.

Sketch of the origin and progress of the Commerce and Manufactures of Bristol—Slave-Trade—Commerce in the reign of Henry II.—Notice of Harding—Woollen-Manufacture—Notice of Blanket—Trade of Canynge—Notice of Robert Strange—Voyage of Cabot—Trade in 1526—Manufacture of Soap, Pins, and Stockings—of Brass, Copper, and Zinc—Notice of Champion—Present Manufactures—Domestic Commerce—Foreign Commerce—Conclusion.

CHAPTER THE SEVENTH.

THE situation of Bristol and the natural advantages of its port and harbour, rendered it a place of considerable commerce at an early period of its history. The record of its early commerce indeed is in unison with the barbarism of the age in which it took place. It is stated in the Life of Wulstan* to have been a mart for slaves from all parts of England, who are said to have been daily exposed for sale in the public markets. That such should have been the traffic of any city in 1090, is sufficiently disgraceful; but that in the eighteenth century such a traffic should not only have been practised, but defended, will, to posterity seem almost incredible. But, thanks to the progress of the mild spirit of civilization and philanthropy,

* Anglia Sacra, 2, 258.

that traffic is not only abolished, so far as Great Britain is concerned, but it is declared infamous and illegal. Britain too stipulates for its universal abolition: she makes it an article in her treaties of peace and alliance, "THAT THE SLAVE-TRADE SHALL, IF POSSIBLE, BE ABOLISHED."*

It appears, from William of Malmsbury, as quoted by Lord Lyttleton, that in the reign of Henry II. "Bristol was full of ships from Ireland, Norway, and every part of Europe, which brought hither great commerce and much foreign wealth."† Of the articles which constituted this commerce no mention has been made, and therefore it would be useless to conjecture. It however deserves notice, that among those who essentially contributed to this comparative commercial prosperity of Bristol, at that early period, was Harding, descendant of a king of Denmark, and father of Robert Fitz-harding, the founder of St. Augustine's monastery.‡ Harding was made governor of Bristol in 1066,

* "Denmark to do all in her power to abolish the Slave Trade," was one of the articles in the Definitive Treaty of Peace and Alliance between Great Britain and that country, signed on the 14th of January 1814. A similar article was also inserted in the treaty between Portugal and this country, signed at Rio Janeiro, and negociated by Lord Strangford.

† Life of Henry II.

‡ Vol. II. p. 105.

and died about the year 1115. He appears to have resided in Baldwin-street, and to have engaged in mercantile transactions to a considerable extent for the age in which he flourished.

From the commencement of the twelfth century to the reign of Edward the Third, the commerce of Bristol does not appear to have made any very considerable progress, nor to have suffered any material interruption. In this reign, the enterprise and industry of the inhabitants took a new direction, and to the character of merchant was now added that of manufacturer. This change was effected by the introduction of the woollen-manufacture into England, and by the activity with which the citizens embarked in the business. This alteration took place about the year 1340. The manufactories were principally situated in Tucker and Temple Streets; and among those who particularly distinguished themselves as manufacturers, was Thomas Blanket, who has been already mentioned as the individual who first manufactured the article which still preserves and will probably perpetuate the name of BLANKET.* The woollen-manufacture long continued to flourish in Bristol; but the difference in the price of labour operating

* Vol. II. p. 181.

with other causes, has long since removed it to the North.

The commerce and manufactures of Bristol appear to have made a considerable progress during the next century, about the middle of which flourished the celebrated Canynge. This extraordinary man employed 2853 tons of shipping* and 800 mariners, during the space of eight years. He appears to have carried on an extensive trade with Ireland, Denmark, Dantzic, and the nations on the shores of the Baltic. From this extensive commerce, Canynge not only derived wealth, but a high degree of consideration; and peculiar attention was paid to him by the most powerful men of the age. This appears from two recommendatory letters by Henry VI. in 1449, of which one is addressed to the Master-General of Prussia, and the other to the magistrates of Dantzic. In these letters, the king styles Canynge "his beloved eminent merchant of Bristol;" and their object is to request all possible favour and countenance for two of his agents, who then resided in Prussia.† In the following year Canynge was exempted by the king of Denmark from a prohibition, which he

* For the names of these ships and their respective burthens, see Vol. II. p. 285.

† Rymer's Fœdera, p. 226, and Barrett's History, p. 169.

issued to England, of trading with certain parts of that monarch's dominions. This indulgence to our distinguished merchant was sanctioned by the approbation of the king and parliament of England; and he was allowed to employ two vessels in this trade during the space of the two ensuing years. Canynge died in 1474, in the sixty-ninth year of his age.

Many of the contemporaries of Canynge were excited, by his success, to emulate the spirit of enterprize of which he had given them so splendid an example. Among these, Robert Strange acquired great distinction. In 1459, a ship laden with spices and other valuable productions of the east was plundered in the Mediterranean by the Genoese. This vessel was the property of Mr. Strange, and was valued at nine thousand marks. When this act of violence was known in England, Henry VI. seized the property of such Genoese merchants as resided in London; which was detained, under a threat of confiscation, till full restitution was made for the capture. This decided and spirited act of justice seems to have produced the desired effect, and not only deterred the Genoese from repeating similar aggressions, but from interrupting in any way the commerce of

England in the Mediterranean. After this event, Mr. Strange appears to have engaged extensively in that commerce. It is however certain that he was thrice advanced to the dignity of first magistrate in Bristol, and evinced the benevolence of his disposition by founding the alms-house which at present bears the name of St. John. Robert Strange probably died about the year 1491.

When the talents and perseverance of Columbus had given another world to that spirit of adventure which had then begun to exhibit itself, the merchants of Bristol became eminently conspicuous among those who were anxious to share both in the glory and advantages of the new discoveries.* In 1494 they prepared a fleet for this purpose, the command of which was bestowed upon John Cabot, who was to be accompanied by his sons Lewis, Sanctius, and the distinguished Sebastian. The result of this voyage was the discovery of Newfoundland; and on the return of the Cabots to Bristol, was laid the foundation of a commerce which has proved highly advantageous to the city.

* For a more detailed account of the voyages of discovery which were engaged in about this period, the reader is referred to *Hackluit's Voyages;* of which a new edition has been recently published.

In 1497 another fleet was fitted out from Bristol, the command of which was conferred upon Sebastian Cabot. In this voyage he revisited the former discovery of Newfoundland, and sailed as high as the 67th degree of north latitude; then shaping his course southerly, he explored the whole coast of North America as far down as the 38th degree of latitude. This part of the continent he expressly says was afterwards named Florida.* Consequently, Cabot was the first who discovered the continent of America; as Columbus did not fall in with it till the following year. Contemporaries with Cabot were Elliot, Ashurst, Guy, and Thorne. In 1502 Elliot and Ashurst obtained letters patent for embarking in a voyage of discovery. Elliot was ranked among the most eminent navigators of his age, though it does not appear that he made any considerable additions to the discoveries of Cabot.

John Guy was the first who colonized Newfoundland.† He seems to have possessed not only a spirit of daring adventure, but also of prudence and perseverance. Those who accompanied him

* Some account of the discoveries of Cabot is contained in the Life of Henry VII. by Lord Bacon; a work which the reader who wishes for more ample information on the subject will do well to consult.

† Stowe's Chronicle, continued by Howes.

in his expedition are represented to have been persons of character and industry, and consequently were peculiarly qualified to encounter the difficulties which are inseparable from the infant state of a colony. Thus the inhabitants of Bristol obtained the distinction of being among the first, if not the first, who planted colonies on the American Continent. Of Robert Thorne it has already been stated that he was the first Englishman who set the example of forming a commercial settlement in the new world.* By the talents and exertions of these distinguished citizens, the commerce of Bristol was not only greatly extended, but a solid foundation was laid for those extensive mercantile transactions which have subsequently been the source of its wealth, and of its relative importance among the cities of Great Britain.

It appears from Hackluit,† that before the year 1526, as well as at that period, the merchants of Bristol had engaged in a commerce to the Canaries, by means of vessels from St. Lucar in Spain. From the same author we also learn that in this trade the exports were principally cloth and soap, which were probably manufactured in the city; and that the imports were chiefly

* Vol. i p. 207, in a note. † Hackluit's Voyages, vol. ii. p. 302.

naterials for dying, drugs, kid-skins, and sugar. .t seems also, that agents from the merchants of Bristol were sent to Spain to transact their busiiess in that country; and consequently considerable intercourse must have existed, even at that early period, between the city and the peninsula of Spain and Portugal.

While the city was thus extending its commerce, it by no means appears to have neglected its manufactures. In 1523 it seems to have added to its woollen-manufacture that of soap on a very extensive scale, and in the several varieties of white, speckled, and grey. In 1581, manufactories for pins and for stockings were also established; and thus the city possessed the means of carrying on an extensive traffic at home, in addition to its foreign commerce.

How long these manufactures continued to flourish extensively in Bristol we have not the means of ascertaining; but to these were added, in the beginning of the last century, the brass-manufactory at Baptist-Mills; where the first brass made in England was manufactured in 1705. The workmen who were employed in this manufactory were brought hither from Holland; a country which, till that period, preserved the reputation

which it had acquired by its skill in various branches of manufactures; and in teaching these manufactures to the rest of Europe, Holland obtained an honourable distinction. Copper was first made in England by Sir Simon Clark, whose assayists, Messrs. Coster and Wayne, established a copper-manufactory near Bristol, in conjunction with Sir Abraham Elton. Zinc was manufactured in the vicinity of Bristol by Mr. Champion, in 1743, and was afterwards carried to the greatest perfection by Mr. Emerson, who obtained a patent for making brass, zinc, and copper. Bishop Watson, in his Chemical Essays, says, that "The zinc made by Mr. Emerson is whiter and brighter than any other, either English or foreign; and his brass is said to be more malleable, more beautiful, and of a colour more resembling gold than ordinary brass." The manufactory was at Hanham, on the banks of the Avon, about two miles from Bristol.

Of Mr. Champion, who preceded Mr. Emerson as the manufacturer of zinc, mention has before been made, in the sketch of the origin and progress of the recent improvements in the harbour; and, therefore, he seems to deserve here a brief notice. Mr. Champion is represented to have been a man of great activity of mind, and is generally mentioned as a constant projector; a character which

ought to be uniformly contemplated with respect and with pity. Respect is due to such a character, because society owes to it many obligations, and much of the progress of the useful arts must be ascribed to its existence. This character, however, deserves pity, because the indulgence of a disposition for projecting is not only unfriendly to the interests of the individual, but has frequently precipitated its unfortunate possessor from prosperity or competence into all the wretchedness of penury. What influence this disposition, which is imputed to Mr. Champion, had in his case, we neither know nor have we enquired. Respect for the character of a man, who seems to have been an enthusiast in promoting any scheme of which the object was the improvement of the city, prompted this tribute to his ardent spirit of enterprize. If it should be the means of exciting in others a similar enthusiasm, let the effects which this may produce be the monuments to his memory.

Among the present manufactures of Bristol, that of glass, in the several varieties of crown, flint, and bottle-glass, is entitled to the first notice. The principal glass-houses are, for crown-glass, in the parish of Saint Philip and Jacob; for flint-glass, at Temple-Gate; and for bottles, in the Hotwell-Road. At all of these considerable quantities

are manufactured; but we have been informed that the supply has been considerably diminished by the recent state of American and European politics. Of the articles manufactured in glass, great quantities are exported to Ireland, the West-Indies, and to British America, particularly of bottles, as nearly one half the number made are sent out filled with porter, beer, cider, perry, and Hotwell-water.

The refined sugars of Bristol are generally considered of superior quality, and large quantities are exported to Ireland; besides which, the whole of South Wales, and nearly all the counties of the West of England, are supplied with refined sugars from Bristol. The shot made in Bristol has obtained some degree of celebrity, and was manufactured under a patent,* as are also copper-nails for the sheathing of vessels; and we have been

* The person who obtained this patent was Watts, a plumber, and the invention is said to have been made in consequence of a dream. It consists in permitting melted lead to fall through a considerable space; and the experiment was first tried from the tower of St. Mary Redcliffe. Watts sold his patent for ten thousand pounds, and proposed to build a Crescent at Clifton with the money. The situation chosen was a huge rock, and the money was expended in making excavations and in raising immense walls for foundations, which long bore the name of WATTS's FOLLY. Upon these walls Trafalgar-Place has been subsequently erected.

informed upon good authority that these nails are found of great utility.

The tobacco-trade in Bristol is considerable, and the manufacture of snuff extensive. Of the other manufactures the principal are soap, hats, leather, both tanned and dressed in oil, shoes, and saddlery, all of which furnish articles for exportation, as well as for an extensive inland traffic. Nor must the pottery of Mrs. Ring be omitted in this sketch of the manufactures of Bristol; for, of the articles made here, it is little praise to say that they combine elegance with taste, and consequently a visit to the pottery is now generally among the objects which are pointed out to the notice of the stranger, who is solicitous to obtain information, or to gratify a liberal curiosity.

The domestic commerce of Bristol is very great, and is derived from the advantages which it enjoys for an extensive inland communication. The Avon, the Severn, the Wye, the Uske, the Parrett, and the Tone, together with their tributary streams, and the various canals connected with them, afford a ready conveyance for the several manufactures and imports of Bristol, and bring to it the various productions of the surrounding counties. By these means it enjoys an extensive traffic with a great

part of the kingdom, and thus it obtains from the adjacent counties, in exchange for its imports and its manufactures, the several articles of exportation which are necessary for its foreign commerce.

Of the foreign commerce of Bristol the most important branch is that to the West-Indies. Some of the ships employed in this branch of trade are from 500 to 600 tons burthen, and the exports are materials for building, including great quantities of lime, the various articles of clothing necessary for the inhabitants of the West-Indian Islands, large quantities of bottled liquors, and such implements as are used in the making of sugar, and in the other business of the plantations. The imports are sugar, rum, coffee, cotton, and the other productions of the West-Indies.

The recent state of European politics had in a a great measure destroyed the commerce of Britain with the nations of the Continent; that to Spain and Portugal has been preserved from the tyranny of France by British valour, acting in concert with the patriotism of the nations of the Peninsula. Of this commerce Bristol enjoys a considerable proportion, and about four thousand bags of Spanish wool are annually brought into its harbour.

Next in importance, perhaps, is the trade between Bristol and Ireland, or that to Newfoundland, and to British America. In all of these, capital to a great amount is employed; and if sufficient enterprize be not excited, yet industry and activity procure for the citizens a commercial respectability which gives Bristol a high rank among the cities of the empire.

This commercial respectability, it is true, is in all cases the result of the possession of property, and consequently the pursuit of wealth seems inseseparable from intense application to trade. In what degree this application is successful as the means of acquiring riches, every commercial city and manufacturing town may furnish striking examples, but in few have its effects been more conspicuous than in Bristol. This indeed seems to be the characteristic of the city. Its inhabitants appear to acquire property by patient toil and general economy, in the slow progress of gradual accumulation, rather than by any of those sudden strokes of good fortune which, in an age feverish with speculations, have raised some to affluence and sunk many in ruin. By industry and economy, means as simple as they are powerful, thousands have raised themselves from "the lowest beginnings" to the possession of princely fortunes, and

" have amassed wealth enough to buy half a nation."* The recollection of these successful examples may inspire those with courage, who are attempting to emerge from obscurity and indigence, and who propose, as the limit of their honourable exertions, the acquisition of a liberal competency.

It is however a striking fact, that those who in old age have been most the slaves of avarice, have commenced their career by proposing the attainment of a competency as the object of their highest wishes. Such is the law of habit; and thus is the love of wealth generated by its constant accumulation. He, therefore, that would preserve himself from the degradation inseparable from the love of amassing money, should not only know that there are nobler objects of pursuit, but dedicate a portion of time to their acquisition. Character

* " Such is the force of well-regulated industry, that a steady and vigorous exertion of our faculties, directed to one end, will generally insure success. Would you, for instance, be rich? Do you think that *single* point worth the sacrificing every thing else to? You may then be rich. Thousands have become so from the lowest beginnings by toil, and patient diligence, and attention to the minutest articles of expence and profit." Barbauld's Essay on the Folly of Inconsistent Expectations—an essay which every young man should commit to memory on his entrance into life, and make its sentiments the standard by which to regulate his hopes; and he may be confident that the influence of its opinions will save him from the poignancy of disappointment.

or reputation is permanent riches, and consequently should be primary objects of pursuit to the young and aspiring. Leisure is the noblest wealth, and the habit of employing it well is the best preparation for a happy and dignified old age. But he who exclusively applies himself to the acquisition of money, shall waste life under the pressure and amid the vacuity of mental poverty, and shall close his career by an old age of restless imbecility, or of painful insignificance.

CONTENTS

OF

CHAPTER THE EIGHTH.

Introduction to the History of Dissenters in Bristol—Inscriptions of interest in the Dissenting Burying-grounds—Brunswick-Square burying-ground——the Wrights, brief notice—Hunt—W. P. Lunell, with notice—Mrs. Perry—In the Baptist burying-ground. Inscription to Emanuel Gifford—William Foot—Biographical Memoir—Latin Inscriptions to the Evans', with translations, and memoir of Dr. Caleb Evans—John Tommas—Joseph Hoskins.—Moravian burying-ground—J. D. Worgan—Notice of Dissenting-Academy, Stoke's Croft.

CHAPTER THE EIGHTH.

It would be difficult to produce more convincing evidence of the progress which the present age has made in civilization, than by a reference to the sentiments which generally prevail upon the subject of religious liberty. It is true that much still remains to be done; but something considerable has already been accomplished. The beginning of a better order of things is already witnessed, and its beneficial effects are experienced and acknowledged. Time, the gradual but certain improver of human institutions, will complete the superstructure, of which the foundations have been so auspiciously commenced.

When England emancipated herself from the dominion of the Roman Pontiffs, the minds of her

inhabitants received an impulse which in time produced an entire revolution in the mental character of the nation. Implicit reception was no longer considered a duty; and, as a necessary consequence, the spirit of theological inquiry was excited. This spirit was still, however, restrained within very narrow limits, beyond which the law pronounced its indulgence criminal, and inflicted its severest penalties upon those who had the temerity to transgress the prescribed boundaries. The fact indeed is, that at this period and probably down to the time of the civil wars between Charles and his parliament,* the principle of toleration was not only unknown as the efficacious means of preserving peace among contending parties, but if it had been proposed, its adoption as a maxim of government would have been denounced as

* The principles of complete religious liberty seem to have been first advanced by the Levellers. They maintained that no man ought to be accountable to another for his opinions, and that all sects possessed an equal right to the protection of the state. The fact is that *opinions* are sacred, and that *overt acts* alone are subjects of cognisance to the civil authorities. To expose a man therefore to inconvenience, or to exclude him from obtaining advantages to which he might aspire as an efficient member of society, merely because his opinions differ from those of the majority, is a manifest injustice and tyranny of a most dangerous influence, because it has an evident tendency to arrest the progress of knowledge, and consequently to annihilate all hopes of improvement in the present condition of the human race.

criminal and impious. Uniformity of faith was by all considered essentially necessary, not only for the peace of the church, but for the future happiness of its individual members. It was the application of this principle which rendered persecution a supposed duty, whether the civil power was possessed by papists or by protestants.

The impulse, however, which even these violent concussions gave to the public mind, was favorable to the expansion of intellect. The fetters of prejudice were thus forcibly torn from the understanding, and finally produced a conviction that some degree of religious toleration, at least, was absolutely necessary. This was indeed an important point gained, but its influence was still more extensive. The men who in the midst of so many difficulties had aspired to the possession of religious liberty, naturally became anxious for the attainment of civil freedom. The philosophical Hume asserts, that the Puritans were the founders of English liberty; and consequently they claim for themselves the enviable distinction of having laid the foundation of the noblest and best superstructure, which the political world has ever witnessed, in the provisions which the British constitution has made for civil and religious freedom.

On the effects which the various sects of dissenters produce upon the established church, and on the influence which these together exert over the public morals, it was intended to offer some remarks as the introduction to this chapter, in which it was proposed to narrate something of the history of dissenters in Bristol. The field however is too ample, and the limits assigned to this introduction are already exceeded. Happily, too, the task of entering at large into the history of dissenters in our city has been assumed by a gentleman, whose researches and habits of intercourse eminently qualify him for the undertaking, and who is understood to have devoted much of his leisure to this interesting object. The collections for this history are represented to be ample, and will probably soon be given to the public. In the interim, we must content ourselves with endeavouring to rescue from oblivion some of the most interesting inscriptions from the principal burying-grounds of the dissenters, and shall intersperse them with such biographical notices as we may be able to procure, or such as our own recollection or the memory of our contemporaries may be able to furnish.

In Brunswick-Square burying-ground, in a small building in the centre, are mural tablets bearing the following inscriptions:

JOHN WRIGHT, M.D.

Who from an incapacity, through a failure of voice,
to discharge the duties of the Christian Ministry,
in which he delighted, engaged in the
Medical Profession, and, actuated by the same
principles of piety and benevolence, closed a life of
varied usefulness, in the pleasing hope of Immortality,
23d December 1794, æt. 62.

Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace. Psalm xxxvii.

Near
this stone
are deposited the remains
Of the Rev. THOMAS WRIGHT,
who sustained with dignity, the character
of Minister of the Society of Protestant Dissenters
in Lewin's Mead,
during the space of forty-eight years.
He departed this life the fourteenth of May, 1797,
in the seventy-first year of his age.

By a manly avowal of the genuine principles
of Religious and Civil Liberty;
By an ardent and well-directed zeal to promote
the knowledge and the practice of pure Christianity,
and particularly by a life of strict integrity,
He acquired general respect;
and secured to himself the testimony of a good conscience,
and the well-grounded hope of a happy Immortality.
His public services, in which Piety,
Affection, and Judgment were united,
were happily continued to the period of his dissolution.

"Blessed is that Servant, whom the Lord, when he cometh, shall find so doing."

Dr Wright and his brother, the Rev. Thomas Wright, were men of genuine benevolence, and gave the best evidence of its influence on their lives, by their active endeavours to ameliorate the condition of their fellow-beings. Some of the charitable institutions of our city owe their origin to their exertions; among which we believe the Anchor-Society must be ranked, which has unquestionably been the means of incalculable benefits, and which was, we think, the parent of the other similar societies. Of the Bristol Library Society also Dr. and Mr. Wright were either the founders or among its earliest patrons and supporters. Of the Rev. Thomas Wright in particular, the author loves to indulge the recollection; and never will the affectionate and impressive manner with which he conveyed instruction to the young in private, be effaced from his memory.

On a tomb recently erected in the burying-ground, are the following inscriptions:

In memory of
WILLIAM and DOROTHY HUNT,
formerly of Manchester,
whose remains are here deposited.
He died September 1, 1803, aged 67.
She followed April 21, 1807, aged 77.

Their life was but a journey home,
And fondness gladden'd every day;
Yet thought of rest and joys to come,
Kept them from loit'ring by the way.

'Twas near this spot their garments fell;
Rising—they changed and wafted on
New-born—as yet, no note they swell,
But lie and gaze beneath the throne.

In Memory of
WILLIAM PETER LUNELL,
Son of William Peter and Alicia Lunell;
who died at Teignmouth, in Devon,
October 21, 1811, aged 27 years,
and whose remains are here deposited.

Unseen—yet still he fills the eye:
Where'er we rove, or rest, he's nigh,
And with this gentler voice revives
The past endearments of our lives.

Vain is the wish, and sinful too,—
The sovereign hand must all things do;
His ways are right, his heart is love:
All's well below that ends above.

To this amiable and interesting young man the author was attached by those ties of romantic but pure friendship, of which perhaps youth only are susceptible. Ardour of benevolence, suavity of manners, and affection for his friends, were his distinguishing characteristics; and these, springing from a mind of no ordinary cultivation, rendered him universally beloved in life, and in death deeply lamented. Peace to thy gentle spirit, lost but loved companion of some of my happiest hours!

and sacred to me be the recollection of thy virtues, till the latest emission of my breath.

Manibus date lilia plenis,
Purpureos spargam flores, animamque nepotis
His saltem adcumulem donis, et fungar inani
Munere.

Bring fragrant flowers, the whitest lilies bring,
With all the purple beauties of the spring!
These gifts at least, these honours I'll bestow
On the dear youth, to please his shade below.

On a tomb at a small distance from that last noticed is an inscription which it would be injustice to omit. The order of nature seems reversed when a father raises a monument to the memory of his son; but when the pious hands of children consecrate these memorials of affectionate gratitude to the memory of parents, the offering approves itself to our purest and finest feelings, and the sensations inspired are in unison with every generous and kind emotion of nature. With these feelings we perused the following inscription, and happy shall we be if we can rescue it from oblivion.

To the Memory of Mrs. ANNE PERRY,
relict of William Perry, Esq. of Woodroose,
in the County of Tipperary, Ireland.
This small tribute of filial reverence and affection
was erected by her youngest and eighth child, Phebe Anne Perry,
in grateful testimony of her exemplary exercise of conjugal duty,

bedience, and love; of maternal solicitude, tenderness, and care, impartially dealt to a numerous offspring; of kindness to all her friends, and serviceable acts to such of them as needed them: in a word, the whole tenor of life regulated by prudence and liberality, in temporal concerns; by charity and piety, in eternal.

She departed this life after a lingering and painful illness, which she endured with patience and resignation, at Clifton, 19th Nov. 1811, aged 67 years.

In the Baptist Burial-ground, Redcross-street, are a few inscriptions which deserve to be preserved.*

Here lieth all that was mortal of a faithful and wise servant of Christ, EMANUEL, son of that truly apostolical man of God, ANDREW GIFFORD; with whom in his youth he first suffered, and then laboured xxviii years in the vineyard, and not long after him was, according to his wish, suddenly called to receive his hire, in the fifty-first year of his age, Oct. 4, MDCCXXIV.

Here also sleep the remains of his beloved wife, ELEANOR, the survivor of all the sufferers in Newgate in the last century for the sake of a good conscience; eminent for piety, industry, prudence, patience, meekness.

These all died in the faith, that happy is that people whose God is the Lord; with which words she calmly bid adieu to time, Feb. xxiv. MDCCXXXVIII. in the seventy-sixth year of her pilgrimage.

* Never were we more deeply impressed with a conviction of the perishing nature of these "frail memorials" than by our visit to these burying-grounds. Some of the tombs are of recent date, and yet the inscriptions which they contained were already illegible. Surely it is desirable to adopt some plan of giving to these inscriptions a greater degree of permanency; and till something better can be suggested we would again recommend the plan mentioned in the note to page 245. If monumental inscriptions thus preserved possess no other value, they would furnish important evidence of deaths, &c. which would of consequence be highly valuable in a legal point of view.

To the memory of the Rev. and Learned WM. FOOT, for many years Minister of y^e^ Gospel in this City. He died May 13th, 1782, in the 75th year of his age. Undissembled piety, integrity, candour, and liberality, eminently distinguished his character. Go, Reader, study like him to approve thyself unto God, and thy latter end, like his, will be peace.

William Foot was born at Plymouth in 1707. He received the rudiments of his education in his native town, and prosecuted his studies first under the superintendence of the Rev. Henry Grove,* who deservedly ranks with the most eminent men among the dissenters. Mr. Foot afterward became the pupil of the Rev. John Alexander, of Stratford-upon-Avon, a man who has obtained the reputation of having been one of the most distinguished oriental scholars of his age.

In 1728, Mr. Foot became the pastor of a Calvinistic congregation of the Baptist persuasion at Tiverton, in Devon, and in 1731 removed to Moreton Hampstead. How long he continued in this seclusion has not been mentioned, but he afterwards came to Bristol, to officiate as the minister of a small congregation of General Baptists in Callow-Hill-Street. About the same time he opened a classical school on St. Michael's Hill, which he conducted with increasing reputation

* For an interesting memoir of this very superior and truly excellent man, the reader is referred to the third volume of Dr. Drake's Essays illustrative of the Tatler, Spectator, and Guardian.

during many years. In this school were educated many excellent characters, some of whom have borne public testimony to the advantages derived from Mr. Foot's instructions. The Rev. Dr. Estlin is his successor in the school. Under him its reputation has been extended, and some of its pupils have succeeded in acquiring for themselves a distinction in the republic of letters.

As an author, Mr. Foot is principally known by a little work, of which the title is "A plain Account of the Ordinance of Baptism; in which all the Texts of the New Testament relating to it are produced, and the whole doctrine concerning it drawn from them alone: in a course of Letters to the Right Rev. Dr. Benjamin Hoadly, late Lord Bishop of Winchester." These letters appeared in two distinct publications, of which the first was printed in 1756; and the second in 1758. A complete edition of the collected letters was published in 1766, and a third edition, with a a biographical sketch of the author, by the Rev. Dr. Toulmin, appeared in 1787. These letters have subsequently been several times reprinted, and have obtained an extensive circulation in America.—Besides this tract, Mr. Foot was the author of a small work on Education, principally designed to elucidate the course of studies pursued in the school over which he presided.

As a theologian, Mr. Foot saw reason to change the opinions for which in early life he had been the advocate. This consequence seems inseparable from investigation; and where the mind is progressive, "to change not" is a prerogative which belongs exclusively to the Supreme Intelligence.

As a man Mr. Foot was distinguished by ardent piety, genuine benevolence, and an innocent simplicity of character, which even a long experience in "the ways of men" could not corrupt or diminish. He possessed, in an eminent degree, the affectionate respect of his pupils; and they who were most capable of appreciating his virtues, have consecrated the noblest monument to his name, by cherishing the love of his memory.

M. S.
HUGONIS EVANS, A.M.
Inter theologos,
Præclarus et insignis merito habetatur.
In publicis concionibus disertus, et eloquens,
In omnibus sacri muneris partibus
Fidelis, operosus, et felix.
Maxime juvenibus erudiendis aptus.
Ad omnia pietatis munia promptus semper et alacris.
Conjux, pater, amicus, praestantissimus.
Quid verbis pluribus? Verus Christianus.
Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit.
V. kal. April. A. D. MDCCLXXXI. Aetatis suæ LXIX.

M. S.
CALEB EVANS, S. T. P.
Hugone Patre, A. M. nati.
Exemplum paternum illustre secutus
Ecclesiæ et Academiæ quibus diu prospere præsidebat
Decus erat et tutamen.
Amicus certus, liberalis, fidus.
Cognatis omnibus quasi pater perdilectus,
Libertatis amore flagrans, jura hominum audacter propugnabat.
Pietate erga Deum insignis;
Solicitus semper omnesque per casus discipulus Christi
Non tam haberi quam sane esse.
Gloriæ divinæ hominumque saluti alacriter se dicando,
Pares haud multos, præstantiores nullos reliquit.
Valde igitur et merito flebilis occidit.
V. id. Aug. A.D. 1791,
Ætatis suæ,
LIV.

TRANSLATIONS.

Sacred to the memory
of
HUGH EVANS, A. M.
Who deservedly ranked with the
most eminent Theologians
of his age.
In his public services he was equally
eloquent and impressive;
and in discharging the several duties of the sacred office,
faithful, laborious, and successful.
To the arduous and important task of educating the young
he was peculiarly adapted.

In performing the offices of piety
he was prompt and indefatigable.
As a husband, father, and friend,
he had few equals;
While his whole conduct was an honour to the Christian profession.
He died lamented by
the pious and the good,
in the sixty-ninth year of his age,
1781.

Sacred to the memory
of the Rev. CALEB,
Son of
HUGH EVANS;
Who, following the illustrious example of his father,
was an honour and support
to the Church and Academy
Over which he long and prosperously presided.
In friendship he was firm, liberal, and unchanging;
Towards his relatives he displayed the
affectionate solicitude of a parent,
and was loved as a father.
Animated by the purest love of constitutional freedom,
He was the uniform and intrepid supporter
of the Rights of the People.
His piety towards God was pure and ardent;
In all circumstances he was anxious not TO APPEAR, but in reality TO BE
a Disciple of Christ.
Thus cheerfully dedicating himself to promote
the best interests of men and the glory of God,
He hath left few who are equal to him,
none who are superior;
and therefore died greatly and deservedly lamented,
in the 54th year of his age,
1791.

Caleb Evans, D. D. the eldest son of the Rev. Hugh Evans, was born in Bristol, in 1737. He acquired a knowledge of the classics and was instructed in the various branches of a general and liberal education under the superintendence and direction of his father; and as he had early resolved to devote himself to the Christian ministry, it was determined that he should complete his studies in the dissenting-academy at Mile-End, and for this purpose he was removed to London about the year 1754.

The academy was at that time conducted with great reputation by Drs. Walker and Jennings, of whom the last is well known in the republic of letters as the author of "Lectures on the Jewish Antiquities," a work which combines extensive erudition with profound research. After an application during the usual period to the several studies, which ought invariably to form a preparation for the exercise of the important office of a public instructor, Dr. Evans continued during a short time in the metropolis, and preached to a congregation of dissenters which then met for divine worship in Unicorn-yard, Southwark. In 1759, however, he returned to Bristol, and on the decease of the Rev. Bernard Foskett, was chosen assistant-preacher to his father among the congre-

gation of Particular Baptists, assembling at Broadmead Meeting, in this city. But his ordination did not take place till 1767, when he had nearly attained the 30th year of his age, at which period it was conducted by the excellent Dr. Samuel Stennett, assisted by other ministers of the Baptist denomination.

Upon the death of his father in 1781, Dr. Evans succeeded him in the office of pastor to the Baptist congregation in Broadmead, and at the same time was elected president of the Education-Society. He discharged the duties resulting from both these important relations, with distinguished ability and zeal, during a period of ten years; and in August 1791, terminated a career full of activity, usefulness, and honour, in the fifty-fourth year of his age. Dr. Samuel Stennett preached his funeral sermon to a numerous and deeply-affected audience, which was afterwards published, together with the funeral oration delivered at his grave, by the Rev. John Tommas, of the Pithay. The preacher well observes of Dr. Evans, that "he died at an age when, in the course of nature, his continuance for ten or fifteen years longer might have been expected. In a sense, however, he might be said to have attained this last term, if we measure his life, not by the efflux of time, but by the

variety and multiplicity of his active exertions for the glory of God, in the good of mankind."

Dr. Evans' productions, as an author, were Sermons on the Scripture-Doctrine of the Son and Holy Spirit—An Address to the serious and candid Professors of Christianity—Christ Crucified, or the Scripture-Doctrine of the Atonement; and several single discourses, which were preached upon public occasions. The Address was the most popular of his productions, and was composed in reply to a publication of Dr. Priestley, who is known to have declared, upon its perusal, that it was written as became "a gentleman and a Christian." It is a circumstance, indeed, which reflects honour upon the memory of Dr. Evans, that his writings were generally free from that acrimony of controversy, which has so much disgraced the publications of theological disputants. He diffused, even over the thorny mazes of controversy, the candour of a Christian, and the liberality of a scholar; and uniformly preserved a sacred regard to that philanthropy which is the noblest characteristic of the Christian religion.

The exertions of Dr. Evans, as a tutor, are entitled to the highest encomiums; and the Bristol Education-Society, over which he had so long

presided with indefatigable industry, united to distinguished talents, were so sensible of his various merits, that they ordered a medallion of him, executed by Bacon, with an inscription commemorating the services he had rendered the institution, to be preserved in their museum, as a testimony of his excellencies, and a tribute of their gratitude.

As a preacher, Dr. Evans is described to have been peculiarly impressive; and while his publications were principally controversial, his exertions in the pulpit were chiefly practical. He knew that the judgment might be correct, while the conduct was erroneous; and he deemed it of little importance, if men became wiser without growing better. He employed the persuasive powers of his eloquence, principally to induce men to the practice of the several moral duties; and as these duties were enforced by the animating hope of immortality, it may be truly said of him that he—

"Allured to brighter worlds, and led the way."

Here rest, in hope of a glorious resurrection to eternal life, the honoured remains of the Rev. JOHN TOMMAS; who sustained with unblemished dignity, the character of Pastor of the Baptist Church in the Pithay, for forty-eight years. His abilities as a preacher, his faithful discharge of the duties of his sacred office, his tender and affectionate concern for the souls of his flock, and his zeal in publishing the truths

of the gospel, need no eulogium: they are engraven on the hearts of all who knew him. His pure spirit was removed from this state of sin and sorrow, to the holy and happy regions of immortality, on the 27th of August 1800, aged 76 years.

On a stone inscribed to the memory of the

Rev. JOSEPH HOSKINS,
who died September 28th, 1788,

is a long inscription which terminates thus—

This stone, too mean and humble for his worth,
Is placed by his church
As a grateful testimony
Of the blessings received under his ministry.

In the Moravian Burying-ground, in Lower Maudlin-Lane, was buried John Dawes Worgan, a young man of superior abilities, who fell a victim to consumption in the 19th year of his age. On entering this burying-ground, the neatness of its preservation and the simplicity of the inscriptions are impressive. Here all the distinctions are levelled which genius can confer or wealth can purchase; and "to be born and die" *literally* "make up all the history" of the tenants of these humble graves. We observed only two deviations from this arrangement: one stone was inscribed to "The honourable and reverend," and on another was written "Resurget"—She shall arise. The grave-stone of Worgan is inscribed, "John Dawes Worgan, aged

19, died 1810," and similar inscriptions mark all the other stones.

The dissenters of the Baptist denomination support an Academy in Bristol, for the education of young men designed for the ministry. This academy owes its origin to an endowment which has for many years been annexed to the salary of the pastor of Broadmead-Meeting, held on condition of his being a man well skilled in the Hebrew and Greek languages, and that he shall devote a portion of his time to the education of young men intended for the ministerial profession. From this endowment sprung the Bristol Education-Society, which during some years supported an academy in North-Street; and which, assisted by contributions from the dissenting body in general, and more particularly from those of the Baptist denomination, has recently erected a building in Stoke's Croft, exclusively appropriated to the purposes of education.

The library of the academy is said to be extensive, and to contain almost every production of importance upon subjects in theology. In the museum are several objects of curiosity and interest, particularly a collection of Hindoo idols, or models of such, which have been sent hither at different times by the Baptist Missionaries in India.

Of the progressive advances of the academy from the time of its establishment, of the biography of its tutors, and of the pupils which have received their education in the institution, the limits assigned to our work compel us to be silent. It is only permitted us to notice that the first tutors in the academy were the Rev. Hugh and Caleb Evans and the Rev. James Newton. Of the Evans' we have already spoken; and of Newton it only remains to add, that he was the particular friend of John Henderson, and "forms one of the many instances where superior learning and exalted virtues sink down to the grave unknown to the world, and wept only by that confined circle who knew how to appreciate excellence, but whose praise with its object is soon carried away by the onward rolling waves of time."*

* See The Ponderer, p. 186.

CONTENTS

OF

CHAPTER THE NINTH.

Charitable Institutions, Public Buildings, &c.—Schools for the education of the People—City Grammar School—other Grammar Schools—Colston's School—Schools upon the Plans of Bell and Lancaster—Private Schools—Foote's—Dr. Jones'—Biographical Notice—Exchange—Commercial Rooms—Merchants' Hall—Theatre—Charities—Bristol Library—Philosophical Society—Circulating Libraries—Literature.

CHAPTER THE NINTH.

FEW cities in the kingdom are more distinguished either for the number or the variety of charitable institutions than Bristol. Their number indeed is honourable to the benevolence of the citizens, and their variety reflects some lustre upon the civilization of the age; while both combine to afford evidence of the existence of those generous feelings which prompt to the alleviation of human suffering. The period however has arrived when it is very generally understood, that the wretchedness of poverty can never be annihilated till the poor themselves associate for its extermination. If benevolence would prevent the pains and the sorrows which seem inseparable from indigence, it must follow a new direction, and instead of pro-

viding for the poor, must enable the poor to provide for themselves. They must be taught to think and to compare, and in many instances to prefer a present inconvenience to the possibility of encountering a future difficulty. The exercise however of this species of self denial, necessarily implies the existence of some degree of mental discipline. Those exertions therefore of the benevolent which have for their object the training of the poor to order, to industry, and to economy, are eminently calculated to exterminate the evils of poverty, and finally to annihilate its wretchedness.

If these opinions of the means of ameliorating the condition of the human race be founded in truth, the provision which is made for the education of the people must appear a matter of the very first importance. In Bristol several establishments exist, which in the gradations of the objects that they embrace, are intended to promote this most desirable purpose. Among them, that which is entitled to a priority of notice, is the City Grammar School, founded by Robert and Nicholas Thorne. These were eminent merchants of the age in which they flourished, and appropriated no

inconsiderable proportion of their wealth to the endowment of this School.

The situation which was chosen for the establishment, was the site of the ancient hospital of St. Bartholomew; and the building erected for the purpose, was that which is now the City School in Christmas-street. As the situation of the present Grammar School near the College-green was deemed greatly preferable, an exchange of the respective establishments was made in 1783 by the corporation, and afterwards confirmed by act of parliament. The endowments however of the distinct charities were continued to each, in the same proportion as they existed previously to the exchange.

The City Grammar School has two fellowships at St. John's College, Oxford, and enjoys five exhibitions, worth together nearly forty pounds per annum. We have been informed, that the School had once a high reputation, and that it has produced some eminent scholars; but we hesitate not to record our expectation, that the erudition and assiduity of its present masters will restore it to its former distinction.

Besides this School, the city contains two other endowed Grammar Schools: the College Grammar School in the lower College-Green, founded by Henry VIII. and Redcliff Grammar School, in St. Mary's Chapel, at the eastern extremity of Redcliff Church, founded by Queen Elizabeth. In the history of these establishments nothing has reached us which appears to deserve a record, and consequently it must suffice thus to notice their existence.

Of the eminent persons whom these Schools are said to have produced we at present recollect only Sir William Draper K. B. who received the rudiments of his education in the College Grammar School, under Mr. Bryant. The names of the others may probably be found in the rolls of their respective Colleges, or it may be, that like many men of profound erudition, their fame has not extended beyond the limits of their university.

In the other Free Schools of the city the branches of education attended to are principally reading, writing, and arithmetic; including we believe merchants' accounts. Of these the most important is Colston's School, in St. Augustine's

Place. This is indeed a princely establishment. In it one hundred boys are boarded, clothed and educated during seven years, and some of the most skilful accountants of our city have been formed in this School. Here also Chatterton resided for the space of seven years of his contracted but eventful life, and if the poems attributed to Rowley are in reality his own productions, here some of them at least were composed.

It is however the characteristic of the present age, that the importance of educating the people has not only been generally and almost universally acknowledged, but that the improvements effected by the systems of Bell and Lancaster, have given such facility to the acquisition of knowledge, as promises its universal dissemination. In Bristol are schools for boys upon both these systems; and recently has been instituted a school for females upon the plan of Lancaster. It is the advantage of these schools, that they offer the blessings of education to indefinite numbers: it is the characteristic of the schools of Lancaster, that they offer them upon terms which can be to none the ground of exclusion.*

* To these institutions for educating the people must be added

Besides these are several other similar establishments of minor importance, with the history of which no circumstances are connected that appeared particularly worthy of record. It seemed therefore superfluous to insert a mere catalogue of names and dates, which, however useful for the sake of reference, could be rendered subservient neither to amusement nor instruction. But perhaps a different course of conduct ought to be observed in regard to the private schools and academies, which have formerly existed in the city for the education of the middling and higher ranks in society. It is natural that these institutions should rank high in our estimation, and that we should

the Society for teaching the adult poor to read the scriptures. Of this society the first annual report was published in March 1813; and from it we learn that in imitation of the British and Foreign Bible Society, the adult schools are open to persons of all religious persuasions, and that the instructions delivered are from the scriptures without note or comment. The number of learners admitted to these schools since the commencement of the institution to March 1813, was six hundred and eleven. The number now under instruction is nearly one thousand. Several of the learners are above sixty years old, some seventy, and one is eighty five. Spectacles have consequently been bought for some who were desirous to search the scriptures for themselves. The behaviour of the learners is said to be truly exemplary, and their improvement such as exceeds the most sanguine expectation.

regret that no attempt has hitherto been made, as far as we have been informed, to preserve some traces of their fugitive existence. That this is one of the legitimate provinces of topography seems indubitable, and as the subject evidently stands connected with the progress of intellect and the advancement of knowledge, it may be rendered at once a source of interest and instruction. Perhaps there is no better criterion of the mental character of a people than the nature of their private schools. For as education is well understood and duly appreciated, the course of studies will not only become more liberal, but, in these establishments, will be extended or contracted, in proportion generally, to the intellectual acquisitions of parents and guardians.

Of Mr. Foote's School on St. Michael's Hill mention has already been incidentally made. This establishment long ranked among the first of the city. In the plan of studies it combined a classical with an English education. This indeed is one of the advantages of private schools, that as they are fettered by no statutes and subject to no arbitrary restrictions, every improvement suggested by experience may be immediately adopted, and the course of studies may usually be suited to the

particular habits and destinations of the pupils. It has already been observed that Mr. Foot continued his school till his death, which took place in 1782.

The Rev. Samuel Seyer, M.A. who has already been referred to as translator and editor of the new edition of the Bristol Charters,* long presided over a school in the Fort, adjoining to St. Michael's Hill, with great reputation. The plan of studies was, we believe, principally classical; but we are certain that it preserved a high character till its dissolution, and that many excellent scholars were formed under its discipline. Mr. Seyer's predecessor was, we think, the Rev. Dr. Jones; who afterwards removed his school to the village of Redland, near Bristol,† where he continued till his death, which took place in 1812. Dr. Jones was buried in the ground adjoining Redland Chapel, in which a flat stone bears the following inscription:

* In a note to page 204, Vol. II.

† In narrating these circumstances

——————incedis per ignes
Suppositos cineri doloso;

but the fact was, that Dr. Jones opened his school in the Fort, and Mr. Seyer at Redland; that they mutually exchanged situations, and that both acquired competent fortunes by the profession.

Underneath this Stone
are deposited the remains
of
The Rev. THOMAS JONES, D. D.
late of Redland,
in the Parish of Westbury, *deceased*,*
Vicar
Of Kingsteignton and Highwick,
In the County of Devon, and
Chaplain
To his R. H. the Duke of Kent.
He died
The 26th of January, 1812, aged 54 years.
"Blessed are the dead which died in the Lord."

Dr. Jones was ranked among the most profound classics of his age, and on many accounts deserved to be distinguished as an extraordinary man. The unwearied assiduity with which he applied himself to study, more especially during the early part of his residence in Bristol, affords an example particularly worthy the imitation of those who are solicitous to lay a solid foundation for future eminence. At

* If the *remains* of the *late* Doctor had been "deposited underneath this stone" before his *decease*, it would indeed have been extraordinary, and ought to have been thus expressly recorded. Surely this man of erudition would start from the grave, if he could be conscious of the indignity offered to his ashes; but happily, in this house appointed for all living, the *foolish*, as well as "the wicked, cease from troubling," for "here the weary are at rest."

this period, his was the useful but laborious occupation of an assistant in a large classical school. But the hours which were not required for the discharge of his duties, were rigidly applied to the obtaining of a perfect acquaintance with classical, and especially with Grecian literature. In this situation he continued about eight years, acquiring in the midst of difficulties which seemed almost insurmountable, the knowledge which subsequently conducted him to reputation and to affluence.

To the author Dr. Jones was unknown except by person, but of his liberality and generosity he has known several instances, and has often heard them mentioned by others in the highest terms of admiration. Dr. Jones had himself experienced the difficulty of emerging from obscurity and comparative indigence, to distinction and competence; and to those who had engaged in the same arduous struggle, his advice and his assistance were always accessible. Many were indebted to him for the first step in the progress of their advancement, and therefore we may hope that many will love his memory, as long as recollection shall hold its seat in their bosoms.

THE ASTOR LIBRARY
NY



From the notice of private academies to a history or description of the public buildings in the city, the transition is, in some respects, violent, but seemed unavoidable; and, among the buildings in Bristol, erected for commercial purposes, the most striking from its situation, and perhaps for the elegance of its structure, is the Exchange. The north front is in the Corinthian order, upon a rustic basement, and extends one hundred and ten feet, but the east and west sides are one hundred and thirty-five feet each, and is supposed to be capable of containing about fifteen hundred persons within its peristyle. It was built from a plan of Mr. Wood, by the body corporate, at an expence of nearly fifty thousand pounds. The foundation was laid in March, 1740, and the structure was finished in September, 1743, at which time it was opened amidst the rejoicings of the citizens; and that the general satisfaction might be more complete, the prisoners confined in Newgate for debt were liberated by the corporation. In 1796 this edifice underwent a general repair from the injuries it had sustained during the revolution of half a century.

At a short distance from the Exchange are the Commercial Rooms. The merchants of Bristol having experienced much inconvenience from the want of a public institution affording accommodations on a plan somewhat similar to the establishment of Lloyd's in London, and the Athenæum at Liverpool, a subscription of £17,000. was filled by the mercantile interest of the city; and in the year 1809, a piece of ground was purchased by the committee of the subscribers, in Corn-Street, nearly opposite the Exchange, for the purpose of erecting a building suitable to the object in view.

Shortly after the committee made a public application to architects, offering premiums of fifty, thirty and twenty guineas, for the first, second and third best designs, for the proposed building. Ten plans were accordingly submitted to their judgment, and after the gentlemen of the committee had duly considered and publicly exhibited all the plans, they awarded the first premium to Mr. C. A. Busby, of London, whose design was adopted, and under whose superintendance, as architect to the committee, the building was erected.

The entrance from Corn-Street is under an Ionic portico of four columns,* communicating immediately with the grand room, which is sixty feet long, forty feet wide, and twenty-five in height. In the centre of the ceiling is a circular lantern light, twenty-one feet in diameter, covered with a dome borne by twelve Caryatides, or supporting figures, between which the light is admitted into the room, through reticular iron sashes, and the whole has an effect altogether pleasing and elegant. The height from the floor to the dome is forty-five feet, and from the centre is suspended a beautiful Grecian lamp, besides four others of smaller dimensions, in the angles of the room. The reading-room is thirty feet by twenty, and seventeen high; there are also a committee-room and offices, and two rooms over the reading and committee rooms, of dimensions corresponding with those below. The whole site of the building is vaulted, and the liberality of the committee has spared no expence in the solidity of its

* Within the portico is a tablet, in basso relievo, executed by Mr. J. G. Bubb, of London. The subject is Britannia attended by Neptune and Minerva receiving tributes from the four quarters of the world. Upon the building itself are three statues by the same artist, of which that in the centre is intended to designate the City of Bristol, attended by Commerce on her right, and Navigation on her left.

construction, or in the embellishments, which render it an honourable proof of their public spirit. The rooms are handsomely furnished. All the London news and commercial papers, as well as those printed in the principal cities and towns of the united kingdom, are taken in, and also the best periodical publications. Correct authentic lists are kept of all vessels coming in and clearing out from the principal ports; and every possible information is afforded to facilitate the extensive commercial arrangements of the citizens of Bristol.

The number of subscribers to these rooms is at present nearly eight hundred. The subscription is two guineas per annum. Those who hold no share procure a nomination, for which they pay an interest of twenty-five shillings per annum. Strangers have access to the rooms under certain restrictions and when introduced by a subscriber.

The Merchants' Hall was built in 1701, but has been frequently repaired, and the front is of a very recent date. In a niche over the entrance, is a bust of his present majesty, and on each side are urns, bearing the arms of the society. The saloon was formerly adorned with several portraits of

eminent merchants, of which the only one at present remaining is a half length of the distinguished philanthropist Colston, painted by Richardson; this is said to be a good likeness, and is the original from which Rysbrack formed a model for the statue upon the monument in All-Saint's church. The hall consists of two divisions, separated by glass doors fitted to an arch, but in itself is spacious, and its decorations have been much admired.

The halls of the other chartered companies at present remaining are the Coopers' Hall, in King-Street, and the Merchant-Taylors' Hall, Taylor's-Court, Broad-Street. The first is a handsome free-stone building, in the Corinthian order, built from a design by Halfpenny. Merchant-Taylors' Hall belonged to a company of great antiquity and considerable wealth, out of which they founded and endowed an alms-house, in Merchant-Street, in 1701. This hall is now used for public exhibitions, or other similar purposes; it contains some pieces of armour, and the walls are ornamented with a few portraits.

Nor must the Bristol Theatre remain entirely unnoticed. It is situated in King-Street, and is

said to have been pronounced by Garrick the most complete in Europe of its dimensions. It was opened on Friday, May 30th, 1766, with the comedy of The Conscious Lovers, and the farce of The Citizen; on which occasion a prologue and epilogue were written by Garrick. The prologue was spoken by Mr. Powell, and the epilogue by Mr. Arthur.

It is well known that the same company of actors perform at the Bristol and Bath Theatres. Many of those who subsequently attained the greatest eminence in their profession, have passed the time of their noviciate at these Theatres. Here Henderson laid the basis of his reputation; and Mrs. Siddons, whose fame as a tragic actress has eclipsed that of all her predecessors, and which few from among posterity will equal, trod these boards during some years, and was frequently doomed to play to almost empty benches, till her transcendant powers had received the stamp of currency from a London audience. But it should not be therefore conceived that provincial audiences are without discrimination; the probability is, that if the most eminent actor were known to be engaged by a provincial manager for a few years instead

of a few nights, even he would have the mortification to find that when the charm of novelty had ceased to allure, he too would be condemned "to strut his hour to empty benches."

Among the public charities of Bristol, the Infirmary is pre-eminent; it is supported by annual subscriptions, and its regulations are dictated by the genuine spirit of pure philanthropy. It is indeed CHARITY UNIVERSAL.

The Bristol Dispensary is also supported by contributions and annual subscriptions. Its intention is to provide medical attendance for poor women in child-birth, and for the poor at their own dwellings.

A Dispensary upon similar principles has lately been established for Clifton and the Wells; and we have been informed that very important advantages have been derived from it, by the indigent of those extensive districts.

To these is to be added, the Medical Preventive Institution, which, as its name imports, is in-

tended to prevent disease, and when possible, to defeat, by anticipating its attacks. No proposed objects can be more important, and we presume that their practicability has now been ascertained by experience. There are also institutions for removing Diseases of the Eyes, which we are informed have been productive of the most important benefits. Bristol has also an Asylum for the Blind, in which those who seemed by the privations of sight to be doomed to perpetual inaction, are taught to procure themselves a comfortable maintenance by their industry. This asylum is situated in Lower Maudlin-Lane; where baskets and other manufactures of the blind are always to be purchased. The Asylum for Orphan Girls is situated at Hook's Mills, within the distance of a mile from Stoke's-Croft Turnpike. This admirable institution is eminently calculated to prevent the evils which the Female Penitentiary in Upper Maudlin-Lane is established to correct. We have chosen thus to associate them, because we are firmly persuaded that an early education, producing habits of industry and reflection, will be the best antidote of the evils to which indigent and uneducated females are so much exposed.

Besides these charities, several societies for the alleviation of the distresses of indigence are established in Bristol. Of these the principal we believe are the Anchor, the Dolphin, and the Grateful, which meet annually on Colston's birth-day, and in each of them very considerable sums are collected for benevolent purposes; the Humane Society, of which the interesting object is the restoration to life of persons apparently dead by drowning; the Stranger's Friend Society, for relieving the wants of the sick or the distressed stranger, and for affording temporary assistance to the poor at their own habitations; the Society for the Discharge of Debtors confined in Newgate for small sums; and lastly the Prudent Man's Friend Society. The principles upon which this society is established, it is impossible to commend too highly. It is intended to enable the poor to provide for themselves; it furnishes them motives to be economical, since it receives their savings, however small, for the purpose of accumulation at interest. It has established benefit-clubs upon principles which promise a perpetuity of continuance; and it thus tends to disseminate among the people calculations in which they feel peculiar interest. To these we add the Female Misericordia, for the

temporary relief of sick and lying-in-women; and the Society for the Reward and Encouragement of Female Servants. This is certainly an interesting object, and one which merits a much greater degree of attention than it has hitherto received.

We shall close this account of the charities of our city, by copying part of the first report of the Prudent Man's Friend Society. This report is far above all praise, and we think that if its sentiments were universal, the wretchedness of poverty would cease to exist.

"IN labouring for the benefit of our fellow creatures, two objects, perfectly distinct in their nature, are to be kept in view:—the *Prevention* of distress, and its *Relief*. Though the former be more easily attainable by the limited powers of man, the latter has generally been the favourite object with the institutors of charitable societies. Nor is this surprising: the appeal made to the feelings by the present view of even a slight degree of suffering, is a much more powerful motive of action than that made to the understanding, by the remote probability of greater suffering in future. It is not, therefore, till the Philanthropist has found by painful experience the inefficacy of all the plans which benevolence has hitherto devised to *relieve* the misery by which he is surrounded, that he turns his thoughts to the *prevention* of those evils which no human power can cure.

"In a system of preventive measures, it is impossible to estimate the exact sum of good produced, because the misery which might have existed

if these measures had not been resorted to, cannot be known. Preventive charities therefore, can never obtain that popularity which has been the meed of those that make a direct appeal to the feelings through the senses. If we see the naked clothed, and the hungry fed, it is easy to comprehend that good has been done; but it requires some powers of reasoning and reflection to trace the operation of those means, through which the pain of hunger has been *spared*, and the shame of rags avoided.

"But bodily suffering is not the only evil of poverty which philanthropy would prevent. Too commonly the degradation of the mind bears some proportion to the degradation of the outward circumstances; and though it may be thought easy to relieve the corporeal wants of our fellow-creatures, yet who shall revive the spirit which has been extinguished by suffering, or restore that mind which has been brutalized by the extreme of poverty?

"To *prevent* evils which can only be *imperfectly* remedied, and to preserve the human mind from that state of debasement from which it is seldom raised, the PRUDENT MAN'S FRIEND SOCIETY was projected. In the course of the last year, it has received the liberal support of a benevolent Public; and the Committee have now the pleasure of laying before the Subscribers, the progress which in the short space of nine months, has been made in attaining the desirable ends for which it was instituted.

"The first object of the Society is an attempt to remove the pernicious examples of idleness and vice, exhibited by *Street-Beggars* and other impostors; and to give temporary relief to those persons who, on enquiry, are found to be driven to ask alms from real distress. For this purpose, tickets are issued by the Society; and if the charitably disposed would steadily persevere in giving them in the streets instead of money, the deserving would be more certainly relieved, and the impostor would quit a neighbourhood in which he finds his deceptions are no longer profitable.

there," which were afterwards increased by various donations, and in 1739, when the present building was erected, amounted to five hundred volumes. It would seem that this number has since been augmented, if the two thousand volumes stated in the catalogue of the Bristol Library Society *to belong to the city*, refer to this ancient collection.* A wing to the original building was erected in 1786, at which period it is probable that the "Bristol Library Society" was formed. The Rev. A. S. Cat-

* Since this passage was written the Author has been informed, that the conjecture in the text is correct; and that the number was augmented by donations from John Heylin and Matthew Brickdale, Esqrs. It is, however, to be regretted that these two thousand volumes repose on the shelves, without producing any of the objects for which the collection was intended. The principal cause of this neglect is, that the conditions upon which these books are accessible to the public are unknown. Some years since, the Author applied to the Librarian of the Society upon the subject, but the gentleman who then held the office could give him no information, nor did he even know that any catalogue of these books was in existence! The Author then intended to apply to the Corporation, as the original trustees of the City Library, but a want of leisure principally has hitherto prevented his executing this design. There can however be no doubt but that a respectful application would be attended with all the success which can be desired, and that these two thousand volumes might lay the foundation of a library which would be accessible to *all the citizens*, if not gratuitously, at least upon such moderate terms as to render the establishment a PUBLIC BENEFIT.

cott bequeathed his museum of minerals and fossils, together with a valuable collection of books, to this library, which also contains a few MSS. of comparatively little value; and among them is one by that gentleman.

The collection of books belonging to the Bristol Library Society is very valuable, and constant additions are made to it in consequence of the appropriation of the subscriptions to new purchases. By means of this arrangement, annual accessions to the value of four hundred pounds are said to be made to the library. The librarian is a clergyman, who is assisted in the discharge of the duties of his office by a sub-librarian.

The terms of admission are, a deposit of eight guineas, by which the subscriber becomes a proprietor, and the property is transferable, and in addition to the deposit an annual subscription of one guinea and a half is paid in advance. The sum therefore which must be paid by every new subscriber is nearly ten pounds, before any advantages can be derived from the establishment. That the benefits which may be procured are more than equivalent to this deposit we have never entertained the shadow

of a doubt. But if it be intended that the Library shall become a public benefit, the members of the society should certainly consist of annual subscribers, as well as of proprietors. In this case the subscription ought undoubtedly to be augmented to the non-proprietor in proportion to the interest of the deposit, and at present might be farly fixed at two guineas per annum. It does not appear probable that any evils would arise from this extension of the plan of the Bristol Library Society, if the librarian would exercise only an ordinary degree of vigilance in examining the state of books when delivered to the subscribers, and when they are returned; especially as the committee may forbid what volumes they please to be taken from the Library. This arrangement would render the Library an institution of evident public utility. It is true that something more than even this is necessary, that these establishments may be productive of all the advantages of which they are capable; but this improvement should be immediately effected, and posterity will not fail to carry on the plan to the highest improvement of which it is susceptible.

Among its institutions Bristol had a Philosophical Society, of which one of the objects seems to

have been the dissemination of science by means of public lectures. Of the history of this Society the author knows nothing, and among its transactions the only remarkable circumstance of which he has heard is, that the late Dr. Beddoes was refused the honour of ranking among its members on account, as it is said, of his opinions in regard to religion. At the dissolution of this Society it was proposed to form an establishment on a more extensive plan, to unite the Bristol Library and Philosophical Societies, and to erect a building sufficiently spacious to form a literary and scientific institution which should do honour at once to the city and to the age. It is certain that such a scheme reflects a genuine splendour upon those with whom it originated; and that obstacles should have arisen to its being carried into execution cannot be too greatly regretted. It is presumed that the regulations, of the proposed establishment would be dictated by the spirit of liberality, and have for their object the public benefit. It is indeed understood that the Surry institution is the model upon which it would be formed; and every friend to the progress of amelioration will join his ardent wishes that the Bristol institution may emulate and even rival the reputation of its celebrated model.

This chapter ought to close with a view of the state of literature and society in our city at the period in which we are writing. This is at once a delicate and difficult task. The task is delicate, because it is inconsistent with decorum to sacrifice to heroes till after sunset; and it is by no means easy to fix upon such criterions as at once demonstrate the progress of science, of literature, or of taste. That in the present age Bristol has produced talents which will bear a comparison with the most splendid period of the ages that are gone, to us appears indubitable. To trace the steps of their progress, and to point out the characteristics by which they may be at once distinguished, are objects which excite interest, and which may be rendered sources of instruction. Among these characteristics may rank public libraries, book societies, scientific establishments, the periodical and other publications, originating in the city or which are the productions of its citizens and of those in its vicinity. To these we should be disposed to add the booksellers and printers of the city, as means of ascertaining the state of its literature. Upon some of these topics a few observations have been already offered, and we must compress into narrow limits what remains to be said upon these topics.

Besides the Bristol Library Society, the city has many circulating libraries. Of these, the principal, we believe, is that of Messrs. Barry and Son, and that of Messrs. Haas and Rees. In these collections are found many of the most valuable works in general literature, in biography, in history, and even in philosophy and science. The subscribers to these establishments we have been informed are numerous, and the circumstance deserves to be recorded, as indicative of the state of literature at the period in which we are writing. It is only justice to add, that the library of Messrs. Barry and Son ranks as the first in the city, in point of extent of collection. That of Messrs. Haas and Rees is comparatively in its infancy, but the progress already made is creditable to the proprietors.

The weekly newspapers are, at present, the principal periodical publications of the city. These are four in number,* but are distinguished from provincial papers in general by no features which seem to require a particular delineation. Indeed a newspaper conducted with a liberal impartiality, and enriched by original reflections or communications,

* The Journal, and the Mirror, published on Saturday; the Gazette, on Thursday, and the Mercury, on Monday.

is confessed to rank among the objects which are still to be desired for Bristol.

The reputation acquired by Chatterton, by Yearsley, by Hannah More, by Southey, and by Cottle, is acknowledged to have shed some degree of splendour upon the literary character of the city. In another age, the historian will enumerate those of their contemporaries by whom a portion of this splendour is still reflected; and we venture to predict, that among them will be distinguished the elegant Translator of Hesiod, and the profound and skilful Biographer of Beddoes; nor will the editors of some of the rarest specimens of early English literature be omitted in the enumeration. But we feel that here we are trespassing upon forbidden ground; and, consequently, that safety can be secured only by a precipitate retreat.

Of the present state of Society in the city something shall be said, but that very briefly. The stranger who visits Bristol is astonished that it furnishes no public amusement except the Theatre, and wonders that even that is, in general, attended by so few of the inhabitants. That this however argues the absence of a social spirit is by no means

certain; perhaps, even the very contrary is the truth, and that this indifference for public amusements is the result of a fondness for the social endearments of fire-side pleasures. It is indubitable, that in London, where public amusements exist in the greatest possible variety, and in every possible form of attraction, the pleasures of what may be called domestic society are by no means frequent. This, however is the kind of society which seems to prevail most in Bristol. The social circle in the evening is usually enlivened by guests who come perhaps even uninvited, but are always certain of a cordial welcome.

It must not be imagined that no other kind of society exists, and that balls, routs and card parties are here unknown, or that Bristol contains no societies instituted for the express purpose of revelling in the luxury of refined and scientific conversation; nor must it be supposed that the pride of wealth exerts no influence in a commercial city, where rank, derived from birth, is almost unknown among the residents, and where the talents held in most estimation are those which can be applied to the raising of a fortune. There is however a liberality of feeling,

even in regard to wealth, which is every day becoming more general, and we think that the wealth which has its seat in the mind is daily rising into esteem. But we must not descend to particulars where a general outline only was intended. In these observations it may be that we have been seduced to contemplate the bright points in the landscape, but it is certain, that we have endeavoured to delineate them with impartiality. The progress of amelioration must commence with individuals; but it will proceed

"From individuals to the whole,"

during its ceaseless approaches to the highest perfection of which man in his present state is capable, and in another and a better world will arrive at its consummation.

CONTENTS

OF

CHAPTER THE TENTH.

Biographical Sketches of Eminent Persons, Natives of Bristol—of Bibert—Ralph of Bristol—Richard Lavingham—John Milverton—John Spine—Robert Ricaut—Sebastian Cabot—William Canyngs—William of Worcester—William Grocyne—Dr. Child—Tobias Matthews—Edward Colston—John Lewis—Sir William Draper—Thomas Chatterton—Ann Yearsley—Mrs. Robinson—William Isaac Roberts—John Dawes Worgan, and Mr. Thomas Eagles.

CHAPTER THE TENTH.

TO the subject of this chapter the author long intended to appropriate a distinct publication, and some of the leisure of the last few years of his life has been applied, to the collecting of materials for his projected work, which will probably be entitled, "Memoirs of eminent Persons connected with the History of Bristol." In this volume therefore only brief sketches of some of the more distinguished characters can be given: these are essential to its utility and design; but its limits will not admit the introduction of every name which has been procured in reference to this object, and which in a work exclusively dedicated to the biography of the city would be important or interesting.*

* "In one of the papers (No xxxii.) Mr. Evans announces as his next literary task, 'Memoirs of eminent Persons connected by Birth or Resi-

Of the eminent persons who, by their talents or their industry, confer a lustre upon Bristol as their native city, the first in order of time, whose name has been transmitted to the present period, is Bibert, a Benedictine monk. According to Bale, Bibert was abbot of St. Augustine's Monastery, and highly celebrated among his contemporaries for his profound knowledge of the philosophy of Aristotle, which he combined with sacred literature.* He is also mentioned by Leland, as a theologian of distinguished ability, and appears to have been skilled in all the learning and philosophy of the age. As an author, he obtained considerable reputation by his productions, which are represented to have been various; among which was A History of the Times in which he lived.

dence with Bristol.' This enterprize appears to us well adapted to the character of his skill, and to be of useful example to the country. Each of our great provincial towns should undertake a local Biographicon; since many lives occur which deserve preservation, though not adapted for a national dictionary, by the local character of their utility, or the secondary importance of their efforts; and which, in such provincial lists, would find their proper place, and thence lend a convenient illustration to the researches of the antiquary or the genealogist."

Monthly Review, for July 1813. Art. "Ponderer," p. 312.

* Baleus de scriptoribus Brytanniæ, centura decima. Page 49.

Great reputation however among contemporaries will not always procure posthumous fame. In respect to Bibert, few particulars of his life have been recorded; and the period in which he flourished is almost unknown, but in all probability it was toward the close of the twelfth century.

In the succeeding century, Ralph of Bristol occupied a distinguished place among those whose talents or stations have preserved their names from oblivion. It must be admitted, that in an ignorant age profound learning was by no means necessary to obtain the reputation of a scholar, nor abilities of the first rank absolutely requisite to receive the adulation which is always lavished upon genius, when possessed of the adventitious advantages of wealth or honours.

Ralph of Bristol was educated in the Abbey of Glastonbury, which was highly celebrated as a seat of learning when all the knowledge of the times was engrossed by ecclesiastics. After making himself a proficient in the logic of the schools and the philosophy of the age, he removed to Ireland, and became treasurer of St. Patrick's, Dublin;* an office which

* See Sir James Ware.

not only produced a considerable present emolument, but also laid the foundation of future advancement in the church. In 1223, Ralph obtained the dignity of a mitre, by promotion to the bishopric of Kildare. He employed his spiritual authority in conferring indulgences upon the place of his education, a trait in his character which ascertains his affinity with minds of the purest feelings, in which the memory of the scenes of childhood and youth is mingled with recollections which inspire an amiable enthusiasm.

Of the productions of Ralph of Bristol as an author, one only is mentioned by Sir James Ware, namely, The Life of St. Laurence, Archbishop of Dublin; a species of composition which, though highly estimated in the period in which our author flourished, has long since ceased to interest.

Among the priors of the Bristol Carmelites were several characters which, in times more propitious to the cultivation of intellect, would have been the boast of literature and the ornament of science. Of these, Richard Lavingham, who presided over the establishment towards the close of the fourteenth century, is entitled to notice. He obtained great

reputation as an author, by his numerous productions in divinity and philosophy; and his abridgement of the Venerable Bede's history was highly celebrated by his contemporaries. Among his philosophical productions are several which demonstrate an active spirit of enquiry, and which still rank among the speculations of philosophy, such as infinite divisibility, and identity.*

Of the same establishment with Lavingham was John Milverton, a Carmelite friar. Milverton attracted particular notice by his manly and spirited defence of the Carmelite preachers, of which order he was provincial. These friars had incurred the displeasure of the English bishops, by declaiming against the temporalities of the church; and as Milverton not only protected, but in some degree encouraged them in the promulgation of these *dangerous* sentiments, the prelates preferred an accusation against him before the supreme head of the catholic church. He was in consequence summoned to Rome, to answer for his conduct before the sovereign Pontiff; to whom, without doubt, such heresy must appear heinous and damnable, and Milverton was accordingly committed to the Castle of St.

* Bale, Cen. Sept. p. 509.

Angelo. In this confinement he continued three years, having sacrificed to his integrity not only his liberty but the bishopric of St. David's, to which he had been elected, as a reward for his learning and piety, previously to being suspected of culpable heresy. He was indebted for his liberty to the cardinals who had been entrusted with his trial; after which he came to London, and appears to have lived in retirement and obscurity to the period of his death, which took place in 1486. He was buried in the monastic church of the Carmelites, where a monument was erected to his memory, bearing a Latin inscription, which is preserved by Weever. A catalogue of his productions, as an author, is given by Bale,* of which the principal are, a Treatise on the Poverty of Christ, and an Account of his Captivity in the Castle of St. Angelo. Upon the whole, the character of John Milverton was distinguished by zeal and intrepidity; and in a more enlightened age he would probably have been the advocate for a more rational and a purer system of theology.

Contemporary with Milverton, and, like him, a Carmelite friar, was John Spine, a doctor in divinity of the university of Oxford. Spine is probably the

* Bale, Cen. Oct. p. 619.

English word Thorn, latinized, according to the custom of the times, and it may therefore be rationally conjectured that Nicholas Thorn, the founder of the Bristol Grammar-School, was a descendant of the same family. Of Spine few circumstances are now known, either to excite or gratify curiosity. His productions, as an author, were more numerous than important, and are now forgotten. He appears to have resided principally in Oxford, where he died in 1484.*

Of the Society of the Kalendaries, one of the most celebrated is Robert Ricaut. His memory is preserved by several manuscripts relative to the history and customs of Bristol, which are still extant, in the possession of the corporation. Of these manuscripts, the most valuable is the Mayor's Kalendar; the design of which he explains to be "the recording of events, customs, laws, liberties, and such other circumstances relative to Bristol, as are necessary to be remembered and inviolably observed." The other MSS. are denominated the Great and Little Red Books, and contain, among many curious notices relative to the city, some account of its bye laws and customs, and a few abstracts from its charters.

* Bale, Cen. Undecima, p. 68.

Ricaut was elected town-clerk in 1479, and appears to have filled the office with great reputation, till 1503, which was probably the period of his death. He survived the destruction of the Kalendaries' library, which happened in 1466; from which period the society appears to have sunk into neglect, till at length it was annihilated by the unsparing rapacity of Henry VIII.

Among the eminent men whose skill and enterprize gave splendour to the fifteenth century, few deserve a more distinguished place than Sebastian Cabot. This intrepid navigator was born in Bristol about the year 1477. His father, John Cabot, was a Venetian pilot, and as he was profoundly skilled in those branches of mathematical science which are essential to the mariner who would become illustrious in his profession, he inspired his son, Sebastian, with taste for similar studies, and always made him the companion of his voyages, that he might correct the theories of science by the decisions of experience. Before he was seventeen, Sebastian had made several voyages. In the year 1494, John Cabot, accompanied by his son Sebastian, discovered Newfoundland, and returning to Bristol, laid the foundation of a commerce which has proved

highly advantageous to our city, and which gave a new direction to the industry and enterprize of its inhabitants.

Upon the death of his father, which seems to have happened soon after the completion of this voyage, Sebastian, in 1497, revisited his former discovery of Newfoundland, and sailed as high as the 67th degree of north latitude; then, shaping his course southerly, he explored the whole coast of North America, as far down as the 38th degree of latitude. This part of the continent, he expressly says, was afterwards named Florida. Consequently Cabot was the first who discovered the continent of America, as Columbus did not observe it until the following year.

The reputation of Cabot was by these means deservedly extended; but in the rapid sketch which we propose to give of his actions and of his character, we can only add, that in 1552, he was particularly zealous in promoting a voyage to the north, which produced the trade to Archangel, and laid the foundation of the intercourse which has since subsisted between this country and Russia. Edward VI. took great pleasure in the conversation of Cabot, and

allowed him a pension of £166. 13*s*. 4*d*. per annum. He was also made governor for life of the Russia Company, by royal charter, and he appears to have reached the eighty-ninth year of his age, honoured by his contemporaries, and in the prospect of a reputation which shall be as extended and as durable as transcendant abilities and superior success in enterprize can confer.

It is said that Cabot was the first who observed the variation of the needle in the mariner's compass. He published a map of his discoveries, which was engraved by Clement Adams, and hung up in the privy gallery at Whitehall. On this map was inscribed a latin account of the discovery of Newfoundland. Cabot also published a work, entitled "Navigatione nelle Parte Settrentrionale;" which was printed at Venice in 1583. His abilities, his integrity, and the success of his enterprizes, reflect the highest honour upon the city which gave him birth, because they contributed to lay the foundation of the naval power and the glory of his country.

To the name of Canyngs has been attached a peculiar splendour. The piety which in early life induced him to complete Redcliff-chuch, which

his grandfather had commenced, and which afterward prompted him to retire from the world and to dedicate himself to the service of religion, has been deservedly celebrated. His extensive mercantile transactions, the number and the size of the ships which he possessed, his immense wealth and his unbounded liberality, would furnish ample theme for panegyric, and will transmit his name to posterity, as by far the most eminent man of the age in which he lived. But in addition to this, Canyngs has been represented as the patron of the arts, the lover of the muses, and the friend and protector of genius. He died in 1474, in the sixty ninth year of his age, and was buried in the church of St. Mary Redcliff, in which an interesting monument is dedicated to his memory.*

William of Worcester was born on St. James's Back, Bristol, probably about the year 1415. His maternal name was Botoner, and he often styles himself by both these appellations, but most frequently uses that of Worcester. He studied at Oxford, having had the good fortune to obtain the patronage of Sir John Fastolph, a general of great ability and success, who obtained a high military

* See page 285, Vol. II.

reputation in the reigns of Henry IV. V. and VI. Worcester evinced his gratitude to his patron by drawing up a biographical memoir of his life and exploits. He was also the first who translated Cicero into English, whose piece DE SENECTUTE he presented to Wainfleet, bishop of Winchester; but it appears that this literary production procured for its author neither patronage nor preferment.

It is, however, on his work as a topographer, that the fame of Worcester principally rests. His book is published under the title of "Itineraria Symonis Simeonis et Willelmi de Worcestre," which was edited by James Nasmith, A. M. F. A. S. The itinerary of Worcester is a mere note-book, and was probably designed only as materials for a better work. In it he has recorded whatever appeared to him worthy of observation in the places which he visited, without preserving any method or arrangement. Bristol was his native city, and he has given the most interesting information respecting it, mixed with much of little or no value. He has given the dimensions of every public building, and usually of all the streets in the city, occasionally interspersed with a few biographical or historical notices. It is more than possible, however, that Worcester had

conceived the plan which was afterward executed by Leland, certainly favoured by superior advantages, and perhaps assisted by abilities of a higher order. But it is also certain that Worcester's Itinerary contains information which can be found in no other author. He died about the year 1484. His name, however, shall not perish, for it will always deserve most honourable mention from every lover of topography.

Few men have rendered more important services to classical learning than William Grocyne. This eminent scholar was born in Bristol, in the year 1440. He acquired the rudiments of education at Winchester school, where he distinguished himself by the excellency of his poetical effusions. For the prosecution of his studies he travelled into Italy, and became the pupil of the most illustrious masters of the age, among whom were the elegant Politian and the learned Demetrius Chalcondyles. Upon his return to England, he became teacher of Greek at Oxford, and was the first public professor of the language in that university. When Erasmus was in England, a similarity of tastes and pursuits probably induced him to cultivate a particular friendship with Grocyne; but it is certain that he men-

tions him in his epistles in terms of the highest respect; that "he owns great obligations to him, representing him as one of the best divines and scholars of the English nation."* Grocyne died in 1520, in the eighty-sixth year of his age.

William Child, doctor of music, and a composer of distinguished reputation, was born in Bristol, about the year 1607. Dr. Child was the pupil of Elway Bevan, who was then organist of Bristol cathedral; a man of superior genius, whose productions in music are said to have rendered essential service to the science of harmony. Dr. Child afterwards studied at Christ Church college Oxford, where he took his degree of bachelor of music in 1631. In 1636 he was appointed one of the organists of St. George's chapel at Windsor; and soon after to the same situation in the Royal chapel, Whitehall. After the restoration he was made chanter of the king's chapel, and one of the chamber musicians to Charles II. He received his degree from Oxford in 1663, at an act celebrated in St. Mary's church. From his appointments Dr. Child seems to have derived a liberal competency; and from some charitable bequests which he appointed in his will, he

* Jortin's Life of Erasmus.

appears to have died in the possession of some degree of wealth. He reached the advanced age of ninety, and at his death was buried in St. George's chapel, Windsor. The following inscription was engraven upon his tomb;

> Go, happy soul! and in thy seat above,
> Sing endless hymns of thy great Maker's love.
> How fit in heavenly songs to bear a part,
> Before well practised in the sacred art.
> Whilst hearing us, sometimes the choir divine
> Will sure descend, and in our concert join;
> So much the music thou to us hast given
> Has made our earth to represent their heaven.

Tobias Matthews or Mathew, archbishop of York, was a native of Bristol, and is unquestionably entitled to a place among the eminent men whom it has produced, for his love of literature, and his desire to excite a literary taste in his fellow-citizens, by his attempt to establish a public library "for the use of the aldermen and shopkeepers" of the city. Matthews was educated at Christ Church, Oxford, and was raised through various preferments in the church, to the opulent bishopric of Durham, from which he was translated to the archbishopric of York in 1606. He obtained a high reputation as a preacher, and the industry which he evinced in the exercise of his

talents reflects honour upon episcopacy. From a register which he kept, it appears that while dean of Durham he preached seven hundred and twenty-one sermons; while bishop of that diocese, five hundred and fifty; and after he was an archbishop, seven hundred and twenty-one; giving a total of one thousand nine hundred and ninety-two! He committed nothing to the press except a latin sermon against Campian, the celebrated convert from protestantism to popery; who, having taken the habit of a Jesuit at Rome, in 1573, was sent on the dangerous mission of a visit to England in 1580, by Gregory XIII. Upon his arrival, Campian was distinguished by the intemperance of his zeal in propagating his opinions, and soon after was brought to trial on a charge of high treason, found guilty, and executed in 1581. Archbishop Matthews died in 1628, in the eighty-second year of his age. He was buried in his cathedral at York, where a splendid monument, with a latin inscription, is erected to his memory.

To the memory of our distinguished philanthropist, Edward Colston, is due every mark of respect which affectionate veneration can suggest for the most eminent benefactors of the human species.

Colston was born in Bristol, on the 13th of November 1636. After the completion of his education, he visited Spain, where he appears to have established important mercantile connections, because his extensive commerce with that country was a primary source of the immense wealth, of which he dedicated so large a portion to the alleviation of the sufferings of the indigent. He lived a bachelor; and when urged to marry, he used to say "that every helpless widow was his wife, and distressed orphans were his children." Colston spent upwards of seventy thousand pounds in public acts of benevolence; and is supposed to have expended nearly an equal sum in acts of private beneficence; because he is known to have sent, at one time, three thousand pounds by a private hand, to relieve and discharge the debtors in Ludgate. Colston closed a career truly honourable, because it was distinguished by the practice of all the virtues which ennoble human nature, on the 11th of October, 1721, in the eighty-fifth year of his age. Notwithstanding the munificence of his character, he left a fortune of one hundred thousand pounds, to be distributed among his relations and dependents. Reader! if thou art wealthy, go and emulate his glorious example; and even if necessitous, let veneration for the memory

of the philanthropist inspire thee with affectionate solicitude for the happiness of thy species, and teach thee to "feel for all that lives."

John Lewis, a learned English divine, was born at Bristol in 1675. He was educated in grammar learning at the Free School of Winbourn, in Dorsetshire, and received his academical education at Exeter college, Oxford, where he took his degrees. Having been ordained, he officiated some time as curate of St. John's, Wapping. In 1699 he obtained the rectory of Acris, in Kent, which he resigned in 1706, when he was presented by archbishop Tennison with the rectory of Saltwood in the same County, with the chapelry of Hythe annexed. He was afterwards collated to the vicarage of Minster, in the isle of Thanet, and in 1719 archbishop Wake constituted him master of Eastbridge hospital, in the City of Canterbury. He died at Margate in 1746. He was author of a great number of publications, which reflected credit on his industry and learning; amongst these were "The Life of Wickliffe:" "Wicliffe's Translation of the new Testament:" "The History and Antiquities of the Isle of Thanet:" The History of the Abbey and Church of Feversham:" "The Life of William Caxton:" "The History of

the Translations of the Holy Bible and New Testament into English.*"

Sir William Draper, knight of the bath, was the son of an officer of the customs in Bristol, and received the rudiments of a classical education at the cathedral Grammar-school, which was then under the superintendance of the Rev.—— Bryant. He was next removed to Eton, and afterwards studied at King's college, Cambridge. He chose the army for his profession; and in 1761, acted at Bellisle as a brigadier. In the following year he was sent to India, and the military reputation which he acquired in those scenes of daring enterprize, entitles him to rank with the most famous of Indian warriors, Clive and Lawrence. In 1763, he commanded the troops who conquered Manilla, which was saved from plunder by the promise of a ransom that was never paid. Sir William first appeared as an able writer, in his clear refutation of the objections of the Spanish court to fulfil its engagements in regard to that ransom. It is well known that he afterwards engaged in a controversy with the mysterious but formidable Junius, in defence of the Marquis of Granby. To this defence Sir William seems to have

* See Rees's New Cyclopedia

been prompted by private friendship rather than by political feelings. As he was foiled, he was no doubt mortified; but he must be allowed to have displayed considerable talents, and his motive is highly honourable to the amiableness of his character.

The services of Sir W. Draper in India were rewarded with the order of knighthood, and with the command of the 16th regiment of foot, which he resigned to Col. Gisborne, for his half-pay of £200 Irish. This transaction furnished Junius with many a sarcasm. In 1799 he was appointed Lieut. Governor of Minorca. That the military skill which he displayed in India highly qualified him for this appointment is unquestionable; but it is equally certain that the appointment terminated unhappily for his country. Sir William died at Bath, on the 8th of January, 1787, and was buried in the abbey church; in the south aisle of which an elegant tablet, with a latin inscription, is dedicated to his memory.

Thomas Chatterton, the posthumous son of a sexton of Redcliff church, was born on the 20th of November, 1752. His childhood exhibited none of

that precocity of genius, which afterwards gave this extraordinary boy such a decided pre-eminence among his contemporaries. At five years of age he was dismissed from Pyle-Street charity-school, as a dull boy, incapable of improvement. In 1760 he was admitted into Colston's charity-school, and after having remained there seven years, was apprenticed to Mr. John Lambert, an attorney of Bristol, to learn the art of a scrivener. To this drudgery, so incompatible with every exercise of the fancy, and of an influence so deadly to the enthusiasm of genius, Chatterton submitted for nearly three years. He then procured his emancipation, and immediately hastened to London, as to the mart where talents of every description were certain of procuring patronage, and fame. Expectations which were suggested only by the ardour of enthusiasm could only lead to disappointment; but that disappointment plunged Chatterton into despair, and during the paroxysm he swallowed a dose of arsenic, on the 24th of August 1770.

In the character of Rowley, Chatterton claims a place in the first order of genius; perhaps, yielding precedence only to the incomparable Shakespeare. In his own person, and estimated by productions

avowedly and indisputably his own, a degree of inferiority must be acknowledged; but he still ranks among the most extraordinary characters of his age; and when his extensive acquisitions are contrasted with the depressing difficulties with which he had to contend, he must unquestionably be classed with the most illustrious human beings which ever appeared "in the tide of times."

In estimating the acquisitions of Chatterton, it must never be forgotten that he died a boy—that he terminated his career before others usually emerge from the insignificancy of puerile years—that he was neither nursed in the lap of ease, nor passed his youth amid academic bowers, "distilling sweetness from the Greek and Roman springs"—but that Chatterton was the orphan child of poverty, and that his mental powers were committed to the formation of the sparing hand of charity. Unhappy child of indigent obscurity! of thee it is literally true, that—

> Thy cradle was the couch of care—
> That sorrow rock'd thee in it:
> Fate seemed her saddest robe to wear,
> On the first day that saw thee there,
> And darkly shadowed with despair
> Thy earliest minute.

In these unpropitious circumstances, Chatterton demonstrated that it is the prerogative of genius to scatter illumination even amid the glooms of despair; for spurning the chains of ignorance with which poverty had enfettered him, he sprang to contemplate the splendours of science with the vigour of an eagle.

Among the acquisitions of Chatterton, his knowledge of languages will, probably, be entitled to the first consideration. Of Latin he knew something, of French more; but what is perhaps more difficult than either, in a knowledge of that particular dialect of the English language, of which the Poems of Rowley are either an original specimen, or a skilful imitation, it must be acknowleged that Chatterton had obtained considerable eminence. To these studies he added a knowledge of English Antiquities which was certainly very extensive, and in a youth, justly merited the appellation of profound. Music and drawing were among his favourite relaxations. In the last of these he is said to have made a progress that would have reflected no dishonour upon the pupil who bestows upon this elegant accomplishment all the assiduity which attachment prompts or leisure allows. Nor were these objects

sufficient in number to exhaust the ardour of a mind like Chatterton's. The abstract speculations of metaphysics, the absurd reveries of school-divinity, and the solid investigations of mathematical science, were all made tributary to his thirst of knowledge. To these are still to be added some skill in physic, a little information in astronomy, and an extensive acquaintance with heraldry. To finish the mental portrait, however, let it be remembered that these were the acquisitions of a charity-boy, who died before he was eighteen; and from the contemplation of the picture, we may form a conception of the intellectual superiority of the unfortunate Chatterton. It adds to the value of the picture that these powers were indisputably his, and consequently that whatever may be our decision respecting the Rowleian controversy, we cannot better display our admiration of genius than by cherishing a respect for his memory.

But in no circumstance has Chatterton been more unfortunate than in the obloquy which has been thrown on his moral conduct. With the exception of the last act of his life, which no circumstances can justify and no sophistry palliate, his character combined much to excite respect and pity, but

nothing to call forth indignation. From his birth to the period of his leaving Bristol, even Calumny herself has not been able to convict him of any immorality; and the only crime with which it could charge him was melancholy, or that consciousness of superiority which, however misnamed by Envy, or reproached by Hypocrisy, is inseparable from genius. Of the speculative errors of an uneducated youth, tinged as they were by the dark shades of his own despondency, but probably originating in the same morbid melancholy which made Johnson superstitious, let those be rigid censurers who consider doubt a high misdemeanor, and a departure from popular creeds the worst of crimes. To the soul of sensibility the very errors of departed genius are sacred; but the wretched moles who rake among its ashes, and take a barbarous pleasure in exposing its imperfections to the vulgar gaze, justly merit the contempt of which they are the subjects, and are amply punished by the grovelling dulness which condemns them to perpetual obscurity.

Accept then, much injured shade! accept the humble offering which I present thee from the contemplation of thy splendid talents and transcendent abilities!—Why have the admirers of genius delayed

to soothe thy perturbed ghost by a tablet sacred to the recollection of thy excellencies?—How dear would be the consecrated spot to every mind susceptible of the pleasures of poesy!—To thy reputation it is acknowledged that the 'storied urn or animated bust' is unnecessary; because that will endure as long as veneration of genius shall constitute an amiable quality inseparable from superior minds; but a tablet inscribed with thy name might be made the means of transmitting a lesson to posterity, and save some future Chatterton from despair.

Ann Yearsley, the distinguished milk-woman of Bristol, whose wild but interesting poetic effusions conferred no ordinary degree of celebrity upon her name, was born about the year 1756. She commenced the career of life in circumstances as humble as those in which she herself moved when she first attracted public notice; for her mother was a milk-woman of the same city. The only education she received was from her mother, except that her brother had taught her to write. But this education was so extremely contracted that at the age of eight and twenty, when her poems were published by subscription, she was completely ignorant of every rule of grammar, and had never seen a dictionary.

Her reading had been nearly as limited as her education had been contracted. Of Dryden, Spenser, Thomson, and Prior, she knew nothing, not even their names. Of Pope she had read only the Eloisa. With the Night-Thoughts and Paradise Lost she was well acquainted, but was astonished to be informed that Milton and Young had written any thing else. She had perused a few of Shakespeare's plays, and spoke with poetic rapture of a translation of the Georgics, which she had read with peculiar delight.

In the sacred poetry of the Hebrews, however, she was well versed, and by its study she had improved her imagination, cultivated her taste, and acquired a dignity and elevation of language, which give a peculiar charm to the wild and simple productions of her genius.

Such was Mrs. Yearsley, when she first attracted the public attention. She appears afterward to have attempted to remedy the defects of her early education, and to have improved her mind by more extended reading. She kept a circulating-library for some years under the piazza at the Bristol Hotwells, and frequently appeared before the world as an author. Her subsequent productions are per-

haps more polished and correct than the Poems which she first published, but they seem to contain less of the splendour and vigour of original genius.

Mrs. Yearsley's Poems appeared in 1785, in one volume quarto. In 1787 she published a second collection of Poems on various subjects. In 1788 she wrote a short Poem on the Inhumanity of the Slave-Trade; in 1790, Stanzas of Woe, addressed to Levi Ames, Esq. Mayor of Bristol. In 1795 she published a Novel in four volumes, called the Royal Captives, founded on the History of the Iron Mask, which she adapted to the idea of his being the twin-brother of Louis 15th. She deviates, however, very greatly from the most prevalent conception of this mysterious personage, and makes him a husband and a father; which affords her an opportunity of introducing the adventures of his wife and son. In 1789 she produced an Historical Tragedy, which was performed at the Bristol and Bath Theatre, called Earl Godwin; it was printed in quarto, 1791. She left the Wells some time before her death; but of her subsequent history the author only knows that she breathed her last sigh in peace, in the bosom of her family, at Melksham, in Wiltshire, on the 8th of May 1806.

Contemporary with Chatterton and Mrs. Yearsley was that lovely but unfortunate daughter of Genius, Mrs. Mary Robinson, who was born in the minster-house near Bristol cathedral, on the 27th of November, 1758. The events of her life are still subjects of notoriety, and are delineated in her Memoirs.* All the circumstances in which she was placed, from the commencement of her career, were extremely unpropitious to her virtue and her peace; let her errors, the refore, bementioned with pity, but let them teach circumspection to the daughters of beauty. The sombre melancholy which brooded over her life from the twenty-fourth year of her age, which aggravated the pains of disease, and flung its dark shadows to obscure her setting sun, impressively teaches that by deviating from our duty, we madly renounce our happiness. Mrs. Robinson died on the 26th of December 1800, and was buried in Old Windsor church-yard. The sweetness and elegance of her poetical productions procured her the appellation of the British Sappho, and still render her effusions favourite relaxations with the lovers of poesy.

* Memoirs of the late Mrs. Mary Robinson, written by herself with some Posthumous Pieces; in four volumes.

To these sketches of eminent persons of the ages that are gone, painful necessity compels us to add two names from among our contemporaries; those of Roberts and Worgan. William Isaac Roberts was born on the 8th of May, 1796. His early education was in no respect favourable to the expansion of his intellectual powers. He soon became sensible of the deficiency, and applied all the energy of his superior mind to remedy the defect. His days were devoted to business, and the hours which should have been given to relaxation, or to rest, were rigidly applied to study. It must be recorded as the prominent feature in the character of Roberts, that he sought reputation neither in the indulgence of eccentricity nor in the dereliction of the duties of his station; but that he sacrificed the sprightly hours of youth to employments uncongenial with his taste and incompatible with his happiness, because he deemed the sacrifice the dictate of duty, and essential to the happiness of a mother. Peace to his gentle spirit! and the fame for which he panted shall duteously attend upon his memory, for his virtues and his genius have consecrated his name to an unfading reputation.*

* Poems and Letters, by W. I. Roberts, and the Ponderer No. 20. p. 109.

John Dawes Worgan was born in Bristol, on the 8th of November, 1791. He gave early indications of superior talents, and the circumstances in which he was placed were in general propitious to their cultivation. The assiduity, however, with which he devoted himself to intellectual improvement, deserves the highest praise; and had his life been extended to a longer period, it is highly probable that Worgan would have obtained an eminent distinction among his contemporaries. But this was not permitted him; for he fell a victim to consumption, in the nineteenth year of his age. A volume of Select Poems, with some particulars of his life, has been published by Mr. Hayley, who has honoured the memory of this interesting youth with an elegy on his death.* Persevering industry, opening genius, and ardent piety, have consecrated the name of Worgan to reputation, and will continue to endear his memory as long as a regard for these excellencies shall be inseparable from amiable and superior minds.

* "Select Poems, &c. by the late John Dawes Worgan; to which are added, some particulars of his life and character, by an early friend and associate. With a Preface by William Hayley, Esq."

To these biographical sketches of eminent characters, many of our readers will probably be of opinion that we ought to add a notice of the late Thomas Eagles, F. S. A. We have declined the task, because we have been informed that a more adequate tribute will be paid to his memory, by the memoirs which it is expected will be prefixed to his translations from Athenæus. Mr. Eagles was unquestionably a man of superior talents and taste. He was the author of most of the periodical essays, published some years since in the Bristol Journal, under the title of THE CRIER. He had critically watched the Rowleian Controversy, and first published the quarto pamphlet of Sir Charles Bawdin. Mr. Eagles eagerly contended for the authenticity of the poems attributed to Rowley, and often expressed an intention of publishing his opinions and arguments on the subject. This design however was never carried into effect; probably it was defeated by his death which took place, in 1813.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX,—No. I.

NOTICE OF Dr. HOOK, AND ABRIDGEMENT OF HIS DISSERTATION ON THE ANTIQUITY OF BRISTOL.

ANDREW HOOK, M. D. appears to have been first known as an author, by "An Essay on Physic, or an Attempt to Revive the Practice of the Ancients," which reached a second edition in 1736. He is also the author of "A Dialogue between a Member of Parliament and one of his Electors, concerning the Window-Tax," the second edition of which was printed in 1748, and some other tracts on subjects of a temporary interest, which are now forgotten. Gough, in the Anecdotes of British Topography, says, that "he had the management of the printing-office at Bristol," a circumstance which seems scarcely probable. He projected a work under the title of Bristollia, or Memoirs of the City of Bristol, both civil and ecclesiastical; and published in 1748, by way of introduction, "A Dissertation on the Antiquity of Bristol." From some

cause, now unknown, the Bristollia was never published, and what progress was made in it cannot be ascertained, as no MSS. of Dr. Hook appear to have been preserved. The dissertation principally embraces observations on Camden's assertion, that "Bristol rose in the declension of the Saxon government." Dr. Hook carries its antiquity back nearly as far as the age of Brennus*, though he does not assert that he was its founder. The argument rests upon an attempt to prove that the *Caer Brito* of *Nennius*, and the *Venta Belgarum* of *Ptolemy*, is the same city, and that this city is Bristol.

Dr. Hook, in recapitulating the argument of the dissertation, which is, "That from Henry of Huntingdon it appears, that in the time of Stephen it was generally understood that *Caer Brito* was Bristow," employs the following language. The

* "Huic successit filius suus Bellinus, cujus frater Brennus, condidit Bristolliam quasi Brendlocum; et iste Bellinus condidit urbem Legionum in Cambria (nunc dicta Carleon) et Byllinsgate apud London, et Danmarchiam sibi conquestu subjugavit."

Floruit quondam apud Carleon, nobilis studentium universitas. Ibi etiam ipse rex statuit unum Archiflaminen, alium London, alium Eboraco, et statuit in diversis locis de novo xiii. flamines, et fundavit templa correspondentia, et possessiones indotavit.

JOANNIS ROSSI Historia regum Angliæ.

Dissertation is now become scarce, which will furnish an apology for these extracts, which with the quotations contained in the History, embrace its most important matter.

"It appears then from the concurrent testimonies of Leland, Sir Simonds D'Ewes, and Dr. Gale (all eminent critics and skilful antiquaries) from Bale and Pitts, who have given us historical accounts of the ancient British writers, and from the History of the Britons itself, ending with the baptism of Edwin, A.D. 627, (as well as from the genealogy of British princes from Vortigern to Firmwail) that Nennius must have wrote about that time. It appears from Gildas, who flourished at the latest about the year 580, that there were twenty-eight eminent British cities in that age, and from Nennius, who has given us their catalogue, that Caer-Brito, Britton, or Briton, as it is in different MSS. was one of them. It appears by the express testimony of Henry of Huntingdon, that in King Stephen's time this Caer-Brito was generally understood to be Kair-Bristow, nor has it been doubted from that time to this day by any one authority that I have met with, until an eminent Prelate of Ireland in the last century took it into

his head to fancy that Alcluid, a little but important place, on account of its scite and fortifications, called by the Romans *Britannodunum*, and afterwards *Dun Britton*, did more nearly resemble Caer Brito than Kair-Bristow. It appears by the strictures upon that learned prelate's note, that his Grace's remark is neither true in fact nor any thing to the purpose of the argument. Upon the whole, then, I think it may be fairly concluded from these premises, that Nennius flourished about A.D. 630, and that his authority with respect to Bristol stands unimpeached, for any thing that has yet been offered to the contrary.

" Here then we have an express testimony that Bristol was an eminent British city A.D. 630, and if it be granted, which is but a reasonable postulatum, that according to the natural growth of towns it requires at least four hundred years for a city to acquire that title, and obtain a rank among the capitals of its country, it will then clearly follow, that the antiquity of Bristol ought to be carried at four hundred years higher, viz. A.D. 230, i. e. above 200 years before the name of a Saxon was known in this island; so that upon the single testimony of Nennius, with the concession above

mentioned, Bristol appears to be 1518 years old, or upwards of 700 years older than the Britannia allows it to be, although Mr. Camden therein cites the very same authority, and admits his full evidence in the case before us.

" It appears from Ptolomy, that Bristol was a capital city of the Belgæ, about A.D. 120, and that with the allowance of a space of 400 years as before, for it to acquire that character, its antiquity will in consequence be carried up to the year of the world 3670, or 280 years higher than the commencement of the Christian æra; so that according to this account, Bristol appears upon strict historical evidence to be upwards of 2000 years old, i. e. near 1100 years older than Mr. Camden is pleased to allow it to be."

APPENDIX,—No. II.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CITY IN THE REIGN OF CHARLES II. BY M. JOREVIN.

" Most of the towns in England, situated in the internal parts of the country, are almost without walls or defences, which are to be met with only about those on the sea-coasts. Bristol does not derive much strength from its walls, except the side towards Bedminster, which the River Avon separates from the town. On this side there are three great streets, wherein are some rich merchants, and a very handsome church of our Lady of Reidcliff, built with a red stone, and ornamented round about with the figures of saints and bas relievos. Its bell and tower is high, and very well finished. One may walk on the top of the church, there being a platform surrounded by a balustrade. These three streets begin at the bridge over this river; it is covered with houses and shops, and here dwell the richest merchants of the town. Near this place is a pleasant walk, in a beautiful meadow by the river-side.

Having passed the bridge, you come to a great arcade supporting a little church, with a clock and tower on it, which makes the entry into several handsome streets, leading to all parts of the town; that in the middle is the principal, and forms an open area or, market-place, wherein stand the Town-House, and Exchange. The street called Monis* street is of equal magnitude; it passes by an area, where some markets are held, and wherein are some covered market-houses; this crosses another street, which runs behind the grand port and quay. I lodged in the house of a Fleming, where I was pretty well entertained, both man and horse, for two shillings. Indeed all over England living is very reasonable, provided you drink but little wine, which in this country is very dear. The little river which makes the great port, separates a small part of the town, to which the way lies over a stone bridge; it is situated on the declivity of a mountain, where formerly stood a strong castle, commanding the whole town: at present its place is occupied by the Cathedral church of St. Augustine, ornamented with a high tower.

"I walked from thence to the port of Conguerol, in the village Depill, where those large vessels stop,

* *Monis* perhaps Mount or High-Street.

that, for want of water, cannot come up to the town, from which it is distant three miles. By the way, on the banks of the river, I found a medical spring, near a small house, in which dwelt a man, who explained to us its wonders and qualities; which made me recollect those at Bath, a town only six miles from Bristol, and situated on the same river, where are Baths, whose waters are hot in some places, and cold in others. The king has a place there appropriated for his bathing, round about which are several admirable pieces of sculpture. The metropolitan church in the same city is among the finest in England; it is represented in the forty wonders of this kingdom. The ordinary walk of the people of Bristol is in a meadow at the end of the peninsula of the town, where the two ports join, on account of many fine rows of trees, and its being a place proper for ship-building.

"The Fleming at whose house I lodged long kept a priest, who secretly said mass in his house; but it having been discovered, he was forbidden to do it; so that at present one cannot hear mass at Bristol, although it is a port frequented by many catholics, Flemish, French, Spaniards, and Portuguese. At Bristol one may procure a passage to Ireland, ves-

sels loaded with coal or iron frequently sailing from that place to Cork, or Kinsale, which are good seaports in Ireland. I was desirous of seeing, before I went thither, all that part of England watered by that beautiful river Severn, which passes through some of the most considerable towns in the kingdom. I left Bristol to go to Glochester; the way lay through meadows, by the side of a small river; whence I entered into the mountains, where I found Stebleton, Embrok, Terenton, Stoon, Nieuport, Kemlrig, and afterwards came to a river at Estminster; and from thence I arrived, through meadows, at Glochester.

APPENDIX,—No. III.

CURIOUS DESCRIPTION OF BRISTOL BY AN EARLY WRITER.

Bristol or Bright-stow, i. e. Illustrious Dwelling, is divided by the river Avon, and pleasantly situated on the rising of a hill. The buildings are fair and firm; the streets cleanly kept. The city answereth its name chiefly for having bred many Eminent Persons. It is a liberty of itself, though it standeth both in Somersetshire and Gloucestershire. There are Diamonds (though somewhat dim) produced at St. Vincent's Rock, near to this City. Of Manufactures, Grey Sope was anciently made only in this City. As for buildings, Ratclift-Church is the best parish-church in England. It was first founded by Cannings, first a merchant, then a priest. St. Augustine's Church is better accommodated with public buildings about it, for the See of the Bishop. Under St. Vincent's Rock, on the west of the city, there is St. Vincent's Well, the waters whereof run through some mineral of iron, and are sovereign

for sores and sicknesses, being washed in it, or taken inwardly. The beer brewed thereof is wholesome against the spleen. If it should chance the crudity of the waters trouble the stomach, there is a remedy in this city, and that is Bristol Milk (a proverb) or Sherry Sack, which the courteous Inhabitants present to all Strangers when first visiting their city.

APPENDIX, No. IV.

TRANSLATION OF THE INSCRIPTION ON THE TOMB OF ARCHBISHOP MATTHEW IN YORK CATHEDRAL.

Tobias Matthew, descended from the illustrious family of the Matthews in Wales, was born at Bristol, and educated at Oxford. When he had united the knowledge of theology to that of polite literature, he immediately entered upon the public service of the church, and became equally celebrated in the city, the country, the college, and the palace: nor will Greece hereafter have more to boast of her Chrysostom, than England of her Matthew. He was immediately known to queen Elizabeth, and was in great esteem with that princess. There was no preacher that she heard with more pleasure, or commended with more warmth. In the 28th year of his age, he was made head of the college of St. John Baptist, Oxford, and at the same time archdeacon in the church of Wells, and canon of Christ-church, to the deanery of which

he was soon after promoted. At length, having enjoyed all the honours of the university, he was made dean of Durham. After a few years, the deanery became too small a dignity for his growing reputation; and such was the queen's favour towards him, that he was created bishop of Durham. When he had presided about twelve years in this see, he was translated by king James to the archbishopric of York. So great a genius, whatever course it took, could not stop short of the highest attainments in it. These were the steps by which he arrived at so elevated a station. The virtues by which he adorned it this monument cannot contain: they exceed the province of the sculptor; history alone can do them justice. Among other things, his singular hospitality ought to be recorded: his house was a perpetual scene of entertainment for the rich, and of charity to the poor. It was a singular felicity to this see, that though he was in his 60th year when he took possession of it, he held it for twenty-two years. That rich vein of eloquence that he possessed was not impoverished even in extreme old age. After he was 70 years old, there was no one that preached more constantly, more successfully, or more acceptably. When his strength became unequal to these public services, he imme-

diately began to languish, as if he had lived by that breath alone which he spent in preaching the word of God, and was unwilling to survive these studies and these labours. Having lived a long, excellent, and happy life, he calmly departed out of it, on the 29th of March, 1628, in the 83d year of his age. The body which he has put off, brought hither in the midst of universal lamentation and regret, is waiting for the coming of Christ, and the return of the soul. Passenger! do not think that he derives any honour from this stately marble: what is here deposited is nobler than the noblest monument. To this marble sepulchre, and to this sacred temple, the name of Matthew is a monument that will survive the strongest fabric, and the most durable materials.

APPENDIX,—No. V.

EXTRACT FROM AN OLD BRISTOL NEWSPAPER, RELATIVE TO SIR JOHN DUDDLESTONE.

Prince George of Denmark, the nominal King, consort to Queen Anne, in passing through this city, appeared on the Exchange, attended only by one gentleman, a military officer, and remained there till the merchants had pretty generally withdrawn; not one of them having sufficient resolution to speak to him, as perhaps they might not be prepared to ask such a guest to their houses. But this was not the case with all who saw him; for a person, whose name was John Duddlestone, a bodice-maker, who lived at or near where Mr. J. R. Lucas now lives, (in Corn-street)* went up and asked him, if he was not the husband of the Queen; who informed him he was. J. Duddlestone told him, he had observed, with a good deal of concern, that none of the merchants had invited him home to dinner, telling him he did not apprehend it was for want of love to the

* This is probably now the house of Messrs. Norton & Son, booksellers.

Queen or to him, but because they did not consider themselves prepared to entertain so great a man; but he was ashamed to think of his dining at an inn, and requested him to go and dine with him, and bring the gentleman along with him, informing him that he had a piece of good beef and a plum-pudding, and ale of his dame's own brewing. The Prince admired the loyalty of the man, and though he had bespoke a dinner at the White Lion, went with him; and when they got to the house, Duddlestone called his wife, who was up stairs, desiring her to put on a clean apron and come down, for the Queen's husband and another gentleman were come to dine with them; she accordingly came, with a clean blue apron, and was immediately saluted by the Prince. In course of the dinner, the Prince asked him if he ever went to London? He said, that since the ladies had worn stays instead of bodices, he sometimes went to buy whalebone; whereupon the Prince desired him to take his wife with him when he went again, at the same time giving him a card, to facilitate his introduction to him at Court.

In the course of a little time, he took his wife behind him to London, and with the assistance of

the card, found easy admittance to the Prince; and by him they were introduced to the Queen, who invited them to an approaching public dinner, informing them that they must have new cloaths for the occasion, allowing them to choose for themselves; so they each chose *purple velvet*, such as the Prince had then on, which was accordingly provided for them; and in that dress they were introduced by the Queen herself, as the most loyal persons in the city of Bristol, and the only ones in that city who had invited the Prince her husband to their house: and after the entertainment, the Queen, desiring *him* to kneel down, laid a sword on his head, and (to use Lady Duddlestone's own words) said to him, "*Ston up, Sir Jan.*" He was offered money, or a place under Government; but he did not choose to accept of either, informing the Queen that he had *fifty pounds* out at use, and he apprehended that the number of people he saw about her must be very expensive. The Queen however made Lady Duddlestone a present of her gold watch from her side; which *my Lady* considered as no small ornament, when she went to market, suspended *over a blue apron.**

* Sir John Duddlestone was created Baronet on the 11th of January, 1691. He was an eminent tobacco-merchant, and with his lady, lies buried in All-Saints' Church, on the right side of the entrance from the north door.

APPENDIX,—No. VI.

EAGLE IN ST. MARY LE PORT CHURCH, WITH A CURIOUS ADVERTISEMENT.

In St. Mary Le Port Church is placed the Eagle which once stood in the Cathedral, and which in 1802 excited no inconsiderable attention in the city. The following curious advertisement narrates its history; to which it is necessary only to add, that it was placed here by the gentleman who rescued it from the unhallowed hands of the brazier, and that it bears his name with an inscription, which records that it was presented to the church upon the express condition of its *remaining* in the choir FOR EVER!

THE EAGLE,

From the Bristol Cathedral.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

At the Exchange Coffee-room, in this City,
***On Thursday, the 2nd of September*, 1802,**
Between the hours of One and Two o'Clock
IN THE AFTERNOON,
(Unless previously disposed of by private contract,)
A BEAUTIFUL

BRAZEN SPREAD EAGLE,

With a Ledge at the Tail;
Standing on a Brass Pedestal,
Supported by Four Lions, one at each corner.

This elegant piece of workmanship was sold,* last June, by the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, of Bristol, or their agents or servants, as old brass, and weighed 6 cwt. 20lb. or 692lb. and has since been purchased at an advanced price, by a native of this city, in order to prevent its being broken up, and to give the inhabitants a chance of buying it.

* It is said that the money obtained by this sale was applied to the purchase of a piece of plate for the communion-service of the Cathedral. At all events, the fact of the sale adds one to the instances already upon record, of the necessity *that public bodies of men* should always act as in the *public view*. It is simply to enforce attention to this principle, that the advertisement, with its plain narrative of facts, forms an article in this Appendix.

It was given to the cathedral, in the reign of Charles II. by one of the prebendaries, who had been there 40 years; and is supposed, by the following Latin inscription, (which was engraved on the pillar or pedestal) to have stood in the choir 119 years.

"Ex Dono Georgij Williamson, S. T. B. Hujus Ecclesiæ Cathedralis Bristol: Vice Decani, 1683."

THAT IS,

"The Gift of George Williamson, Bachelor of Divinity Sub-dean of this Cathedral Church of Bristol, 1683."

The whole of the inscription, except the figures 1683, has been taken off the pedestal, without the consent of the buyer; which he has since had re-engraved.

This piece of antiquity, which is of the most exquisite shape, is made of the best and purest brass, and well worth the attention of ministers and church-wardens, or any gentleman or lady who would wish to make a present of it to their parish church: traders, also, to foreign parts, may find it

worth their while to purchase, as a like opportunity may never offer again.

Such a handsome bird would be, as it has hitherto been, a very great ornament to the middle aisle of a church. It for many years stood in the choir of the Bristol cathedral, and upheld with its wings the Sacred Truths of the Blessed Gospel. The minor-canons formerly read the lessons on it, and in most cathedrals the custom is kept up to this day. This superb image is now at King-street Hall, and may be inspected three days previous to the day of sale.

N.B. The purchaser offered, previous to any advertisement, to re-sell the Eagle at the price he paid for it, provided it were replaced in the choir; which offer was rejected.

APPENDIX,—No. VII.

PIECE OF PLATE PRESENTED TO MR. BATHURST.

The right honourable Charles Bathurst, after having represented the city in five successive parliaments, declined to offer himself again as a candidate for the distinction, and was succeeded by Richard Hart Davis, Esq. At a meeting of the burgesses and inhabitants of the city, it was resolved to present him with a piece of plate, in testimony of approbation of the services which he had rendered his constituents. The following description therefore eminently deserves a place in a history of Bristol.

"It is a beautiful Tripod Candelabrum, of 30 inches high; for feet it has chased dolphins, with shell corners—at its base, frosted unicorns, with wreathes of flowers—its pedestal consists of three sides—the first bears the following inscription:—

"Presented to the Right Hon. CHARLES BATHURST,
One of the Representatives of Bristol, in five successive Parliaments,
By the Inhabitants of that City;
Who,
However differing in political opinions,
Cordially united in this testimony
OF REGRET,
At the close of a connection
Which they had always regarded with satisfaction and pride,
OF RESPECT for public and private worth;
And OF GRATITUDE for the unwearied activity and benevolence,
With which his services were extended to every class of his Constituents.
1812."

On the 2d side are the Bristol Arms—on the 3d, his own, with the motto, TIEN TA FOY. This is surmounted by three elegant female figures, with mural crowns, holding in conjunction circles of flowers, to represent union; between them rises a chased pillar, curiously wrought, from which, branch three arms for lights, supporting a cut-glass dish, with a silver net for flowers. The cost was 700 guineas, and the weight 532 ounces."

APPENDIX,—No. VIII.

DISCOVERY OF STONE COFFINS.

EXTRACTED FROM A BRISTOL NEWSPAPER.

On February the 10th, 1814, the workmen who were making a cistern adjoining to the sugar-house in the Quakers' Fryars, between Merchant-street and Rosemary-lane, discovered three stone Coffins, about 7 feet below the surface of the ground, containing the entire skeletons of two men and one woman. The place formerly belonged to the Dominican or Black Friars, and the bodies were probably buried in the Chapel of the Monastery. The dimensions of the Chapel are thus given by William of Worcester: "Length of the choir 26 yards, breadth of it, eight ditto. Length of the nave 31 yards, breadth of it, 21 ditto." The following memoranda, among others, were copied by the same author from the register of the Monastery:— "William Courteys made the great cross in the

" burying-ground. Matthew de Gourney was one " of the Founders.—Sir Maurice de Berkeley of " Beverstone and the lady Joanna his wife were " buried in the choir on the left hand of the Altar. " —Sir William Daubeny, Knight, was buried in " the choir. The heart of Robert de Gourney was " buried in this church." It is not improbable that the female skeleton and one of the males lying next to her, are those of Sir Maurice de Berkeley and his Lady.

APPENDIX,—No. IX.

CURIOUS EXHUMATION OF A CORPSE.

FROM A BRISTOL NEWSPAPER.

On Tuesday the 15th of March 1814, orders having been given to open a vault, near the vestry, in the north aisle of St. Maryport Church, in this city, it was discovered that the vault was already too full to admit another coffin, without being sunk deeper. The situation is precisely under the remains of a monument, which, from its style, must have belonged to the times of HENRY VII. and has been always called the Tomb of William Little, the Bristol Grammarian—over which is a Tablet, erected to the memory of Thomas Kington, of Notton, Wilts, Esq. The oldest of the four removed coffins had been in the vault only 16 years; but all of them were quite decayed, and their inhabitants nearly mingled with their kindred dust. Upon breaking up the bottom of the brick work, and digging down a few feet, the spade struck upon a hard substance

which was soon discovered to be a Coffin of Lead, being about fifteen feet below the surface, without any inscription. It was taken up, and the next morning examined in the presence of several gentlemen. The lead was of considerable thickness, and contained a thick shell, of red deal, with the interstice stuffed closely with straw. When the lid was lifted up, some gas, of a soapy odour, escaped, and the whole became perfectly inoffensive. A very interesting spectacle now presented itself—There lay, in a most perfect state of preservation, the body of a robust man, measuring six feet two inches. The flesh in some parts resembled supple brown leather—in others it was quite white, and bore a natural appearance—in others again, it appeared fatty. The features were perfectly distinct; the teeth regular; the nose projecting; the eyes so little injured that the transparent part was still pellucid, like horn. The hands, in admirable preservation, rested upon the upper part of each thigh; and scarcely a bone of the toes was wanting. The throat was swollen very much under the lower jaw, giving the idea of strangulation. The hair was quite cut off, in a ragged manner, over the whole head, and was not to be found at all. The head itself rested upon a pillow, composed of blue and white striped

tick, stuffed with feathers, not different in any respect from those in common use. The body was wrapped up in a quilted counterpane, blue outside, and worked within curiously, with red roses in bud. There was nothing resembling what we now call grave-clothes. Under the counterpane was a wove doublet, buttoned down in front with small wooden buttons, worked with thread; with long skirts, and an over-flap collar, in the costume of Oliver Cromwell's time. Under this was a fine linen shirt, with a worked neckpiece. On the legs, a pair of wove brown woollen stockings, but no shoes. Upon the hands had been a pair of leather gloves, which had fallen to decay. From the chin to the top of the head, passed a blue and white linen handkerchief, figured, and tied very firmly in a handsome knot, probably to retain the lower jaw in its place.

The body having been carefully lifted from the shell, the latter was minutely examined, as well as all its furniture, together with a quantity of hemp, forming a bottom layer:—but not the slightest trace of any thing metallic could be found; not a mark upon his linen, not an iota which could lead to a knowledge of his person. Two professional gentlemen, Mr. Richard Smith and Mr. William Gold-

wyer examined the state of the subject itself, Mr. Henry Smith, Attorney, having previously made a drawing of it *in situ*. The lungs were somewhat shrivelled and black; but the heart was in such a perfect state, that its vessels, cavities, and valves, would have admitted of an anatomical demonstration, as easily as a recent one. It was quite white, felt like soft chamois leather, and was evidently converted into that substance which the chemists call *adipocere*, being an inferior sort of spermaceti. The midriff was completely so changed. The liver had a yellow crust of this substance, the eighth of an inch thick; deeper down it was but imperfectly formed; and towards the centre, this organ appeared quite fresh and natural. The bowels were shrivelled, and an entire curiously coiled-up mass of spermaceti, appearing quite covered with crystals. The muscles in front, between the ribs, upon the loins, in the thighs, and, in fact, every where, were more or less, converted into a brown dirty-looking fatty substance. The gristles were elastic; and the bones quite firm, fresh, and sound. The weight of the body had been apparently a good deal diminished, although the limbs had yet considerable plumpness.

After the examination, these remains were care-

fully laid within the two coffins, and replaced at the lowest part of the vault. A few relics were preserved by the spectators; and the heart, we understand, will be deposited in Mr. Smith's Anatomical Museum, as a fine and valuable specimen of human *adipocere*.

Two questions will here naturally arise, 1st, Were any means used to preserve the body? and, 2dly, who was the Hero of the Tale?—In answer to the first, it can be boldly asserted, that no cerecloth, wax, gums, varnish, spices, or any gross embalming materials were used,—at least, they could not be detected. There is, however, one curious circumstance now to be mentioned, which is, that there was an oblong hole, of about 10 inches by 4, in the wooden shell, closed by a piece of wood, which was easily removeable. This led to a conjecture, that rum, brandy, or ardent spirit in some shape or another, had been, through that aperture, poured upon the corpse; and this opinion was strengthened by its flexibility, as when raised forward, it easily retained the sitting posture. The lower part of the shell, too, was damp. Yet, perhaps, all this might be as easily accounted for by a different hypothesis. —2dly, Of whom was it the body? The general

idea inclined to presume, from the *toute ensemble*, that the subject had been executed. As the costume seemed to point out the time, so the history of our city seemed to mark out the man, to be either "Master ROBERT YEAMANS," an Alderman and Sheriff of Bristol, or "Master GEORGE BOWSHER," two Royalists, who where hung in Wine-street, by the Roundheads, under Colonel Fiennes, about the 30th of May, 1643, in spite of the strenuous interference of King CHARLES, who sent a trumpeter with a letter from Oxford to endeavour to save them. But it happens unluckily for this opinion, that in a book, called MERCURIUS RUSTICUS, or the COUNTRY COMPLAINT," printed five years after the event, and now in the possession of Robert Dyer, Esq. as also in other papers of the late Antiquarian, Mr. George Catcott, entitled "ENGLAND'S BLOODY TRIBUNAL," giving an account of this execution, it is expressly mentioned, that "*these two now glorious Martyrs, having thus, through their ignominious deaths, rendered their souls to God, their bodies were taken down, and carried to Master Yeamans' father-in-law's house, corner of Bristol Bridge, and in the evening they were both interred, Master Yeaman's at Christ Church, and Master Bowsher's at St. Werburgh's.*"

In point of fact, therefore, the history of this body is wrapped up in total obscurity. It however affords such scope for curiosity, that we shall be glad to find any one who can throw but a ray of light upon the affair, either Chemically or Historically.

APPENDIX, No. X.

NOTICE OF THE REMAINS OF AN ANCIENT CHURCH, AND OF CANYNGES' CHAPEL.

In the centre of Bristol stood the celebrated High Cross, and round it were four Churches; three of which are All-Saints', St. Ewen's, and Christ-Church. The name of the fourth is conjectured (from information the source of which we do not at present recollect) to have been St. Andrew's; but it conferred no distinction upon any existing parochial division, nor does an account appear of its revenues in the published extracts from the King's books at the period of Henry the Eighth's appropriation of the wealth of religious houses. However, some interesting remains of the fabric still exist. Their site is the same with that of the several houses standing within three sides of a quadrangle formed by High-street, Wine-street, and Adam and Eve Passage. The crypt of the church is at this moment nearly entire, constructed of massive walls and arches; and the houses

erected thereupon seem to have been raised within part of the outer walls of this ancient edifice, some of its ornamental architecture being still visible in the upper room of one of those houses. The door-way of the kitchen at Mr. Penton's, draper, from its shape and the style of the door itself, was probably an entrance from the crypt to the vestry or some other subordinate room. The front entrance to the crypt is by a descent of steps between the cellars of the Miss Peters' and Mr. Penton, through a passage, each side of which presents remains of the outer door, and the ceiling is formed of remarkably strong wood and stone work, doubtless the flooring of the church porch. At the end of this passage, a pointed arch, inserted in the walling which fills up an arch of sufficient span and strength to have supported the tower, leads to the crypt, presenting a breadth and length between that of the corresponding dimensions of Christ-church and St. John's; and which was restored nearly to its primeval appearance, a few years since, by Messrs. Clift and Sons who cleared away the several modern divisions into cellars, with the design of converting it into a ware-room. A few yards within the entrance on the left hand side is an original aperture leading upward to the vestry door-way above noticed.

Farther onward, a hole is rudely broken near the centre of the arch, for the admission of light from a paved court belonging to Messrs. Savery and Co.'s banking-house. In the south wall, before arriving at the transept, is the stone frame-work of an archway large enough for folding-doors, as leading out of the crypt towards St. Maryport-street. The north arm only remains open, of the transept, or rather of its foundation, supposing the original ground plan of the building to have been that of a cross, and this terminates by a window underneath what was formerly a shop-window of Mr. Oldham, in the centre of which, on the outside, under the street-pavement, is preserved a niche or small oratory, in which probably stood a crucifix, or image of the virgin. We understand that the several occupiers of these remains, have from time to time dug up whole skeletons, and other fragments of mortality, proving that the crypt was formerly used as a cemetery. The arches and ornaments of these remains seem to indicate the latter part of the fourteenth century, as the date of their erection.

In Redcliff-street is a chapel, interesting principally from its associations with the name of Canynges. The following description is copied from "The Bris-

tol Guide;" to which it is only necessary to add, that the subject of the painting at the west end is the Trinity, with God the Father in the centre! and that the spacious room adjoining the gallery is Canynges' banqueting-room, in which, it is more than probable, that opulent merchant feasted Edward IV. and his courtiers, during their visit to Bristol in 1461.

"A house occupied by Mr. Birtill, in Redcliffe-street, was the residence of William Canynges. It is large, and throughout exhibits an idea of that worthy and opulent merchant's distinguished and elevated station in life. Here is also a chapel which the respectable inhabitant of the house courteously permits the curious stranger to behold. The west end presents a fine religious painting, traced out from the original by a skilful hand, and newly coloured. On the north side is a recess, for containing water, beautifully edged with wood flowering. At the east end a bust of William Canynges; and on the south side a gallery of oak, which leads into a spacious room, at the further part of which appears a smaller one, said to have been his study. From this latter place the celebrated chest, whence the poesies of Rowley came, is supposed to have

been removed to the church where the ingenious Chatterton discovered them. A monumental stone, with the following epitaph, is lately erected; and, as it occupies a conspicuous place in the chapel, it may prove acceptable to our readers:

JOHN HOWARD,
JONAS HANWAY,
JOHN FOTHERGILL, M. D.
Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name be the Glory.

Beneath some ample hallow'd dome
The warrior's bones are laid;
And blazon'd on the stately tomb
His martial deeds display'd.

Beneath an humbler roof we place
This monumental stone,
To names the poor shall ever bless,
And Charity shall own.

To soften human woe, their care,
To feel its sigh, to aid its prayer.
Their work on earth not to destroy,
And their reward their Master's joy.

Printed by Mary Bryan, (City Printing-Office) 51, Corn-street, Bristol.

MAR 2 - 193



